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Palau consulate to reopen on Saipan. PAGE 5
Dry season plagues Saipan water system. PAGE 6

'Best deal CNMI could enter into'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from left, talks about the tentatively approved NMI Retirement Fund settlement agreement at a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. From left, assistant attorney general Reena Patel, Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, and Attorney General Patrick San Nicolas.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Revenue-generating bills key to restoring pension cut

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the tentatively approved settlement agreement in the Betty Johnson-NMI Retirement Fund case was the "best deal" the CNMI government could enter into considering its finances. He called on the Legislature to pass revenue-generating bills and create a "special fund" that will help restore the 25 percent deferment in retirees' pension.

See BEST DEAL on Page 4

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the 75-percent cut in retirees' benefits to help prolong the life of the NMI Retirement Fund?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Grotto enhancements start with a new signboard. ➤ PAGE 7

WORLD

A 100-lb python is being blamed in the strangling deaths of two boys. ➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

PBS documentary looks at Journey's search for a lead singer. ➤ PAGE 20

IN JOHNSON'S CLASS ACTION VS FUND

Opt-out deadline is Sept. 20

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Any class member who wants to opt out of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund has until 5pm on Sept. 20, 2013, to submit a request for exclusion, according to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

In an order yesterday for the preliminary approval of the settlement deal, Tydingco-Gatewood said anyone who wants to opt out must submit a request for exclusion to the Fund trustee *ad litem* at P.O. Box 501247, Saipan, MP 96950.

To be valid, requests for exclusion must be in writing and clearly identifies the person requesting exclusion by

See DEADLINE on Page 4

Freedom Air loses liability insurance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» Local carrier vows to renew contract

Freedom Air, one of the local airlines that provide interisland travel in the Marianas, stands to lose its liability insurance next week following disclosure that its contract has been cancelled by its insurance carrier.

Saipan Tribune learned that the insurance cancellation has already been relayed to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, which has notified the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration of the matter.

Highly placed sources disclosed that it was the insurance company that notified

See FREEDOM on Page 4

Illegal pesticides in 40-ft container seized

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Division of Customs Services personnel seized last week illegal pesticides that were shipped along with food items in a 40-foot container from China, *Saipan Tribune* sources said.

The imported pesticides were "undeclared," were shipped along with food products, "misbranded" or do not have English labels, and do not meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas, when asked for comment, neither confirmed nor denies the confiscation.

See PESTICIDES on Page 4

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Local

Alaska Rotarian checks out counterpart in the CNMI

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Rotary Club of Saipan can learn a thing or two from the First City Rotary Club of Ketchikan, Alaska, on how it raises funds for its many civic programs.

Jason Custer, a member of the Rotary Club in the 49th state of the union, visited the local organization Tuesday during its weekly membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Custer works for Alaska Power & Telephone as a business development officer and he is on island to look for new business opportunities and learn "what it would be like to do business in the Commonwealth."

He said the First City Rotary Club's biggest fundraiser is its annual duck race, which he boasted raised $30,000 this year for the organization.

"Usually in summer our streams are clogged with salmon so thick that you can walk across them if you're so inclined. But just before the salmon gets there on the 4th of July we sell raffle tickets and everybody who buys raffle tickets has a corresponding rubber ducky with a number printed on the bottom."

Custer said First City Rotary Club has a stockpile of several thousand rubber duckies that it unleashes on the Ketchikcan creek that flows through the middle of town.

"We deploy oil spill containment booms to contain all the duckies and we have a race to see which duck can float all the way down the stream and cross the finish line and whoever comes first wins a lot of money."

He said the First City Rotary Club uses the money it raises to fund several projects, which primarily involves hands-on construction, which its members are really fond of.

"We constructed a picnic area at Black Sands Beach, which is a popular recreational site on a neighboring island that is water access only. We also constructed a picnic shelter at Totem Bight State Park, which houses one of the largest totem pole collections in the world. Recently, we upgraded a fishing structure at Carlanna Lake and we're currently working on a picnic shelter at the city of Saxman, about a 2 1/2-hour drive from Ketchikan, which has the largest collection of totem poles in the world."

Custer, whose wife Margaret is the club's secretary and manages an oil response team, describes the city of Ketchikan as the rainiest city in the U.S.

"We are also known as the fishing capital of Alaska. The salmon capital of the world, in fact, is what they call us."

He said the First City Rotary Club was so named for a couple of reasons.

"First of all, Ketchikan is the first city you'll encounter when you're steaming northwards up the B.C. [British Columbia] coastline to Alaska. We're about a 90-minute flight north from Seattle and so ever since the city's founding as a humble little cannery town, it has been called Alaska's first city."

The First City Rotary Club, which was founded in 1986, was also the first Rotary Club in the world to allow women as members, he said.

Custer said the "first city" name probably also has its roots in their club having their meeting during breakfast, followed by Rotary Club 2000, the 2000th Rotary Club in the world, which meets at lunch.

"So we're also first because we meet first at breakfast," he said with a chuckle,

MARK RABAGO

First City Rotary Club's Jason Custer, right, poses with Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Y. Boyer after the latter spoke briefly during the local Rotary Club's weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

As for his company, Custer said Alaska Power & Telephone has been in business since 1956 and is a private sector utility company that serves 37 communities throughout Alaska.

Much like the CNMI, his company deals with a market that could be challenging at times. "All of them are in rural, geographically isolated locations and have very serious logistics issues."

But unlike Saipan, where residents' utility bill is among the highest in the United States, Alaska Power & Telephone's customers, especially those who live where hydroelectric plants are used, actually pay relatively cheaper rates.

"Some of the communities in the southeast were we have a lot of hydroelectric electricity, those have the lowest electricity cost in the state; it's something like 14 cents per kilowatt hour. Government invested oil and gas sector into building hydro projects. We came from a point in time that our communities were 90 percent dependent on diesel to now 70 percent renewable. And we did that voluntarily but when we started doing that in some communities the cost of hydro projects was higher than the cost of diesel at the time. People were quite resistant but we found out quickly that the price of hydro generation is much lower than the price of diesel and thermal generation."

Custer said he will be on Saipan until the middle of the month. Last Tuesday, he had a meeting with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and yesterday attended the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at Kanoa Resort.

Probationer allegedly used 'ice' again

The U.S. Probation Office has found a man on probation using illegal drugs again based on two drug tests.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered probationer Roque S. Norita to appear in court to explain why his supervised release should not be revoked.

The federal court slapped Norita with a 30-month prison term in July 2010 on charges of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" and illegal possession of guns.

He was placed on six years of supervised release after completing his sentence. He began his supervised release on Nov. 21, 2011.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola reported to the court that Norita tested presumptive positive for use of "ice" and amphetamine on May 26, 2013.

Arriola said that Norita denied using any drugs so the specimen was sent to a laboratory for confirmation. The results confirmed the presence of "ice" and amphetamine in Norita's system, Arriola said.

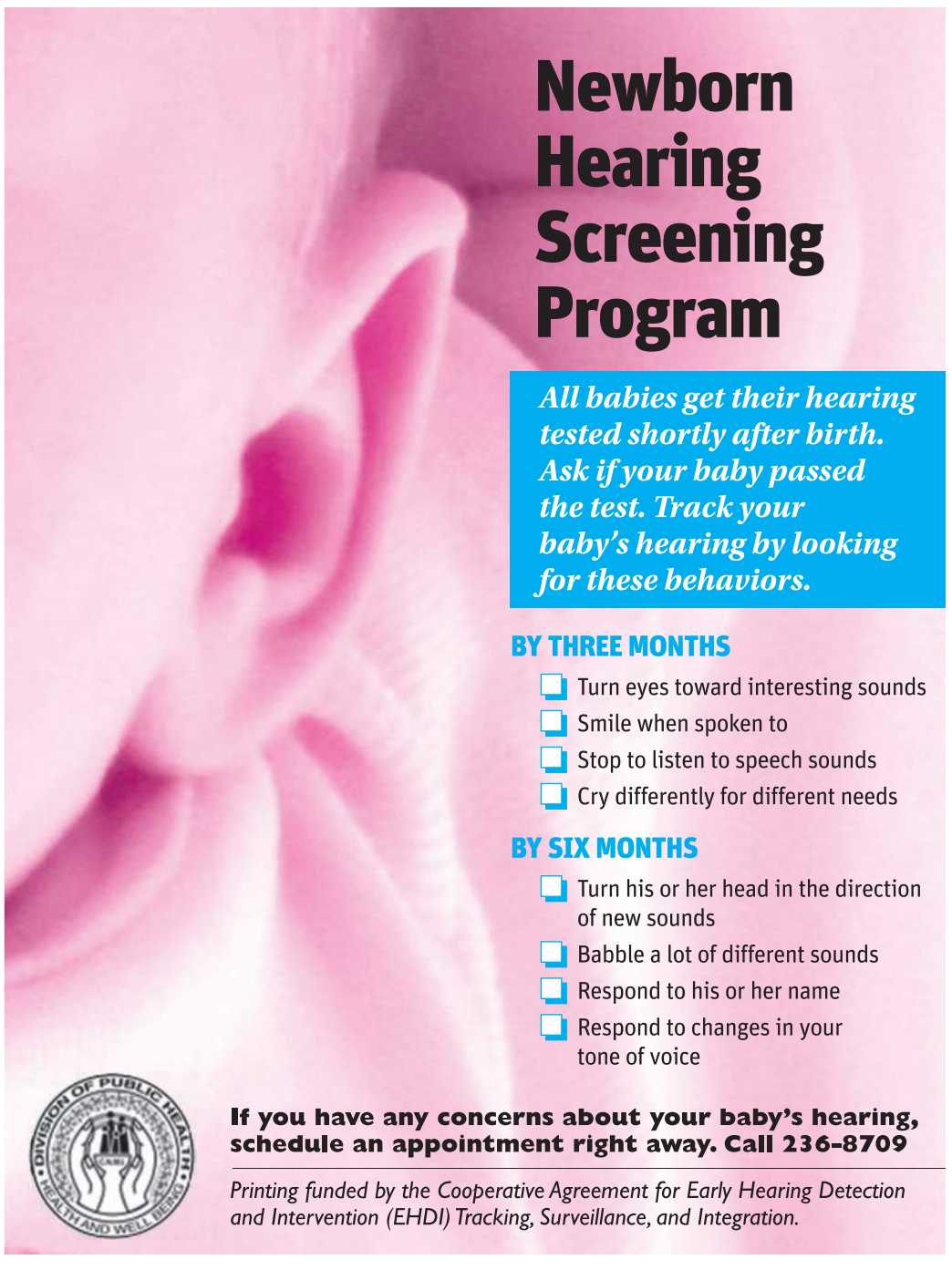
When confronted with the results, Norita allegedly insisted he did not use illegal drugs and that the laboratory made a mistake.

Arriola said that Norita again tested positive for "ice" use during a random drug test at the Marianas Counseling Services on June 1, 2013.

Again, Norita denied using illegal drugs. During a confirmation testing on June 11, however, the results indicated that the specimen was positive for "ice," Arriola said.

Norita then allegedly failed to appear for a random test on July 12, 2013.

Norita later explained that he was at a family funeral and forgot about the drug test. That same day, he tested negative for use of illicit drugs. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Saipan chamber makes pitch to lure Guam franchises

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's recent sales pitch to food and beverage franchises in Guam to try out Saipan was well received, according Chamber president Alex Sablan.

The Tan Holdings executive, during his customary talk to members at the start of their monthly meeting yesterday at Kanoa Resort, said he made a presentation last Wednesday to the Guam Chamber of Commerce that, based on initial responses, was welcomed.

"It was well received as I've got a lot of inquiries from franchises in Guam that are not here in the CNMI. I've talked about the growing tourist numbers, more specifically the growth of the Russian market, the growth of the Chinese market, the steady growth from the Korea market, and obviously our Japan market is steady. We're hoping for people to come take a look at us and we focused on F&B and retail franchises that are not here but are in Guam. We want to see a seamless transition from Guam to the CNMI [and] a few of them have shown interest."

» Also supports Fund settlement, delay in minimum wage hike

Sablan said the Chamber can come up with a sponsored familiarization tour package by arranging to put interested Guam investors up for a night or two in some of the island's hotels "if they pay their way to fly up here."

"It is our hope that we're able to lure some of the more renowned franchises to not only offer our citizens and tourists some variety F&B, but also to spur economic growth while diversifying our CNMI," he said.

Sablan said he is also scheduled to talk to a Rotary Club and an Optimist International club in the U.S. territory.

The CNMI's largest business group, Sablan said, also continues to push for a delay in the minimum wage hike and applauded the recent settlement of the NMI Retirement Fund case.

Sablan said the Chamber supports a minimum wage hike delay because smaller businesses in the CNMI, as it stands, are just "trying make ends meet, trying to keep their doors open, and struggling and we fear this day in and day out."

He said he has had "honest conversations" with Chamber members and non-members alike and they continue to say the same thing: The stay in minimum wage would help the CNMI through the growing period.

"Again I laid out the positive aspects. We are indeed growing and we're growing everyday and another year [without an increase in minimum wage] would help out."

Last Thursday, the U.S. Senate passed a bill that would once again delay a 50-cent increase in the CNMI's minimum wage on Sept. 30 this year and in 2015.

Sablan said the Senate bill contends that there should be a stay every other year until the CNMI reaches the $7.25 U.S. minimum wage law that is currently in place.

"It's something that we've been working on with Delegate [Gregorio] Kilili [C. Sablan] and I'm thankful that he's helped us with this issue. This is real. This is about keeping small businesses afloat and people and individuals employed in this business keep their jobs. Collectively we should agree about this that we will all end up benefiting down the road. We just need to see ourselves through this building time in our economy and we are hopeful to have this bill passed."

Sablan said he also supports Gov. Eloy S. Inos' position for a deferment in pension benefits, by as much as 25 percent, for NMI Retirement Fund members because under the CNMI Constitution the Legislature cannot take away these benefits.

"The reason why we're taking a position on this and the reason we're talking about it is because we are being asked and because those benefits represent $50 million to $70 million circulating in the local economy that we don't necessarily want to lose overnight and will be lost in seven months if nothing is done."

Sablan said the pension deferment could lead to a four-year extension in the life of the Fund and provide the opportunity for local leadership to look at alternatives and solutions.

"To lose even $40 million in circulation in the local economy would be very difficult. A lot of our retail outlets benefit from our retirees' pension checks."

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Inos re-appoints 3 to MVA board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos re-appointed yesterday three members of the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors: chair Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Galleria, Vicente M. Calvo, and Emma Villagomez.

The three re-appointments require the Senate's advice and consent.

If confirmed, the three will serve another four-year term that will expire on Sept. 5, 2017.

Aldan-Pierce and Villagomez represent Saipan on the MVA board, while Calvo represents Rota.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority plays a very important role in the development of the Commonwealth, and I have every confidence that [he/she] will conscientiously devote [her/his] time and efforts in the best interest of all our people. I am confident that [her/his] membership on this important board is critical and [his/her] re-appointment will ensure consistency and continuity in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the Marianas Visitors Authority," the governor said in three separate letters addressed to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Inos also individually told the three nominees that he is confident that they will consistently devote their time and efforts on this important board.

As governor's appointees, the three are immediately required to file a statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, a copy of their résumé, police clearance, drug test receipt, and drug test result, to the governor's office for submission to the Senate.

"If the Senate does not receive copies of these documents, consideration of your appointment could be jeopardized," Inos told the nominees in three separate letters.

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BEST DEAL

From Page 1

That special fund will also be a source of interest payments for active members seeking a refund on their contributions.

The special fund and the required general fund remittances to the pension agency are separate matters, but both need strong cooperation between the Executive Branch and the Legislature.

A retiree himself, Inos hopes that retirees will not opt out of the settlement agreement.

"They're not going to be part of the settlement. They are not going to benefit from the settlement fund," Inos said.

But he said the decision rests with the retirees.

"We're asking them to basically make that decision and hopefully the decision that they make is the right decision. Right now the only certainty is the settlement and the fund that would be provided under the settlement, provided that the government meets the minimum contribution requirements on an annual basis," he said.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's tentative approval of the Fund settlement deal comes barely six months since Inos became governor on Feb. 20.

Much work still needs to be done, Inos said.

The governor said he acknowledges that not everyone is happy about the deal but said the consequences of not entering into the agreement would be "more devastating."

He said the bigger task ahead is "to make sure that we meet the payment requirements."

In fiscal year 2014, for example, the government is supposed to remit $25 million to the Fund. That is much more than the $10 million it has set aside under the fiscal year 2013 budget.

The governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider met with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate yesterday morning.

That was to update them on the status of the settlement deal and to ask for their continued cooperation in prolonging the Fund's lifespan while at the same time ensuring that retirees and active members get what they deserve.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), one of those in that meeting, said lawmakers also believed that "there's nothing else the government could do but to enter into a settlement agreement so we can sustain retirees and active members."

"The major challenge is the 25 percent across-the-board pension cut and the payments to the Fund," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the worst-case scenario is placing the Fund under receivership.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), who was also in that meeting, acknowledges that the Legislature and the administration have to continue working together to see the settlement through.

"Time is of the essence," he added.

Hours later or at past 1:30pm yesterday, Inos and Hofschneider held a news briefing on the Fund settlement agreement, along with Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas and assistant attorneys general Reena Patel, Teresita Sablan, and Gil Birnbrich.

The governor said he had invited Fund officials to the briefing but no one showed up. The settlement deal requires some actions from the Fund as well.

The hearing for the settlement deal's final approval is set for Sept. 30, 2013.

The 25 percent pension deferment or temporary cut will begin after the final approval.

He said the creation of a settlement fund would not necessarily obviate the need for a Retirement Fund.

Revenue-generating bills

In his meeting with lawmakers yesterday, the governor said revenue-generating bills from the Legislature are key to restoring retirees' full pension, especially those receiving only $6,000 a year.

He said the two revenue-generating bills that could clear the Legislature are the electronic gaming at hotels and video lottery terminals.

The Saipan casino gaming bill, he said, might take longer to be acted on as lawmakers continue to gather as many public input as possible.

Inos said he does not see imposing new taxes. He said it would have to be new revenue base.

Interest payment

Active members of the Fund who want to withdraw their contributions may receive their refunds soon under Public Law 17-82.

"The parties agreed that interest will not be included in the withdrawal. The government has decided that portion will also be paid outside of the settlement and again it would also be paid out of any fund that will be generated for the purpose of making whole the Retirement Fund. That is the reduction of 25 percent, which will be paid out of additional resources as well as the interest that will not be paid along with the withdrawals under Public Law 17-82," the governor said.

Inos said the Legislature agreed to set aside a special fund wherein revenues generated from revenue-generating measures will be put in, to help restore the pension deferment.

Lawmakers reiterated yesterday that it is not fair to defer pensions across the board, especially if there are many who receive $10,000 or less and others, $80,000 and above.

But because it's a class action suit, the 25 percent pension deferment will have to be uniform.

"My feeling is that those with $6,000 would probably have to be made whole 100 percent. A guy who's making $100,000 would probably be, rather than stick him with 25 percent, we probably increase to 30 percent, 35 percent," Inos added.

'We tried out best'

Inos said the government tried its best "to come up with an amount that we felt was realistic and practical, given the economic situation up here and the way we looked at how the economy would perform in the future."

"We need a lot of work to be able to meet the required contribution and so we went ahead and agreed to the amounts required with the caveat that we the central government, as well as the Legislature, would need to work together to try to come up with that because the consequences of not entering into an agreement… could be more devastating and so we believe that entering the agreement, is the acceptable way to ensure that we've got some certainty and it's a matter of us doing our best to make sure that we meet the payment requirements," he added.

If the government does not meet its obligations under the deal, there is a stipulated judgment of $779 million that will be enforced.

Inos said the government will try its best to meet its obligations under the deal.

"But I think it's better that we enter into an agreement now knowing what will happen when things happen, as opposed to not entering into an agreement. We know that if we don't enter into an agreement, the money in the Fund would be gone in about a year, a year and a half and nothing left from that point on. So we felt that this was the best deal that we could enter into considering the circumstance that we're in financially and so forth," he said.

The governor also reminded that the Fund is not the only critical matter that needs to be addressed, citing the needs also of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Public School System.

"I understand not everybody would be happy with this. People would feel that they were being cheated…but we tried our best. I just hope that we have no opt outs… For your information, I am staying in. I think that's the best thing to do," he added.

PESTICIDES

From Page 1

The pesticides remain in Customs custody as of yesterday.

Reina Camacho, manager for the Division of Environmental Quality's pesticide program, confirmed yesterday that DEQ was called in to help inspect the pesticides.

"They were misbranded. They do not have English labels. They also do not have EPA registration or establishment number," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said DEQ's recommendation is to have the misbranded pesticides shipped back to their country of origin, at the owners' expense.

"However, at this time, we haven't identified the importer, only the consignee," she added.

FREEDOM

From Page 1

CPA of this development. The insurance firm was not identified.

Freedom Air president and owner Joaquin Flores confirmed yesterday the cancellation of the airline's liability insurance, effective Aug. 16. He assured, however, that the company will renew the contract before Aug. 16.

Flores refused to disclose more information about the insurance company or the insurance terms, but he vowed that Freedom Air will pay the premium before the contract's actual expiration. He declined to state the amount of premiums that will be paid.

"The liability insurance will expire on Aug 16. The premium will be paid before the 16th," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Flores, his company did not inform the FAA of the matter because the federal agency has already been made aware about the situation.

"We did not have to inform the FAA. They are aware of the cancellation notice addressed to the [U.S. Department of Transportation]," he said.

Aviation insurance provides coverage for hull losses as well as liability for passenger injuries, environmental and third-party damage caused by aircraft accidents. There are different types of insurances including public liability insurance, passenger liability insurance, combined single limit, ground risk hull insurance not in motion, ground risk hull insurance in motion; and in-flight insurance.

Freedom Air's Flores said that "insurance is required and is important in order to continue operations."

"We will not operate without it," he assured.

Freedom Air officials earlier disclosed the company's fiscal challenges but promised that they remain committed to serve the CNMI.

"We are still very much committed now as we have been for the last 38 years flying the Marianas," said Flores yesterday.

Freedom Air will be celebrating its 40th year of service in the Commonwealth this year. Last June 14, its officials attended a CPA board meeting where it shared the company's ongoing challenges and plans.

It was earlier disclosed that the air carrier owes CPA some $1.2 million. CPA and the company are in talks about a payment plan. Both parties vowed that they "will do everything in our power to keep Freedom Air operational."

Even with the problems it faces, Freedom Air has not let go of any of its staff and has been trying its best to serve the community, according to its officials. The bad economy, they added, is still affecting the business with a low demand to fly to Rota.

Based on the company's website, Flores' family formed the aviation company in 1974 with three aircraft, a Cessna 172, 150 and Piper Apache. The company has evolved into the Mariana Islands' oldest Guam-based airline. Since then the company has evolved and added new fleets to the operation.

DEADLINE

From Page 1

including their name, address, and date of birth. The requests must be signed by the person requesting exclusion (or someone with the legal authority to act for that person requesting exclusion, with documents showing such authority), must be on a separate piece of paper from any other person's request for exclusion, and must be delivered to the Fund on or before 5pm on Sept. 20.

"The person requesting exclusion must ensure actual delivery to the Fund on or before 5pm on Sept. 30, 2013, and it shall not be sufficient to show that the request for exclusion was postmarked, mailed, or otherwise sent before that date," the judge said.

No settlement class member, or any person acting on their behalf, may exclude any other class member from the class. No lawyer or class representative may validly request exclusion on behalf of a class, putative class, or group of clients.

Tydingco-Gatewood said any class member who timely requests for exclusion shall not be a member of the settlement class and shall not be entitled to any benefits from the settlement fund.

"Requests for exclusion are irrevocable and no person who requests exclusion may later become a member of the settlement class or have any rights under the agreement," she said.

The judge said the class' counsel, the trustee, and the settlement fund shall have no duties whatsoever to any person who requests exclusion.

She said any settlement class member who does not ask for exclusion may appear and show cause if he or she has any reason why the proposed settlement should not be approved as fair, adequate and reasonable, why the judgment should or should not be entered, why attorneys' fees and costs should or should not be awarded to class counsel, or why a service award to Johnson should or should not be allowed.

However, the judge said, no settlement class member shall be heard and no objection may be considered unless it is a written objection.

The written objection, she said, must include the objector's name, address, and telephone number; a sentence confirming, under penalty of perjury, that the objector authorized the objection and that he or she is a settlement class member.

The written objection must also include the factual basis and legal grounds for the objection to the settlement; the identity of witnesses they may call to testify at the final fairness hearing; and copies of exhibits they intend to offer into evidence at the final fairness hearing.

The written objection, Tydingco-Gatewood said, should either be filed with the District Court by 5pm on Sept. 16, 2013, or mailed and postmarked by that date to class counsel Robert Hatch, counsel for the CNMI Reena Patel, and Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano.

As an alternative or in addition to filing a written objection the judge said, any settlement class member who does not request exclusion can orally object by appearing at the hearing on Sept. 30, 2013, at 9am and requesting to be heard on the objection.

In an interview on Tuesday, Johnson's counsel, Margery Bronster, said that if there are too may opt-outs, there will be no settlement, they will have to go back to court, and retirees would end up getting nothing.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted in her order that the final settlement agreement was the result of months of good faith, arm's length negotiations conducted by Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris.

Even Gov. Eloy Inos participated in these settlement talks, she said.

"The court commends all counsel and the parties for their diligent and dedicated efforts to resolve this litigation in a manner that hopefully will be beneficial for all concerned," she added.

At present, the Fund is reportedly underfunded by over $1 billion.

Johnson's counsels said that if the Fund continues to make benefit payments to its members as required by law, the Fund will have no assets and will be unable to make any more payments beginning June 2014.

The settlement deal's main goal is to ensure that retirees who are in the class will receive at least 75 percent of their benefits in the future.

The other goal is to allow the CNMI to let members of the Fund who are not yet receiving benefits to withdraw from the Fund and retrieve their contributions.

The deal will also provide a mechanism for the retirees who are class members to enforce their rights under the settlement in federal court.

Palau consulate to reopen on Saipan

Habitual offender allegedly sets apartment room on fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A habitual offender allegedly threw a bottle of liquor at his brother and burned his apartment room in San Antonio last week.

Jerry D. Ramon, 34, was served with an arrest warrant yesterday morning in Susupe and was taken to Superior Court on charges of arson, assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

He is being kept on a $15,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing is on Aug. 14 at 9am.

Police said that Ramon's brother put out the fire by pouring a five-gallon bottle of water on the burning bed. The bed had severe heat and smoke damage. The room had moderate smoke damage.

Police detective Daniel R. Suel stated in his report that police officers responded to a two-story apartment in San Antonio on July 28 at 6:27pm after receiving a call about an arson incident.

Suel said that when the officer arrived, a man approached the officer and disclosed that it was his brother, Ramon, who burned the room.

The suspect later allegedly confessed to the officer that he did it because he was mad at their landlord.

Police learned that Ramon had been drinking since that morning. He and his brother later had an altercation, with the suspect throwing a bottle of soju at his brother. The suspect then went inside their room, took several papers and burned the bed.

When the brother noticed smoke coming out of their room and saw their bed on fire, he grabbed a five-gallon water bottle and doused the flames.

At 6:45pm that day, police arrested Ramon. On their way to the Department of Corrections, the suspect told the officer that he burned the room because he was mad at his landlord for not returning their deposit.

Suel said he met the following day, July 29, with the accountant of Pacific Realty Management Corp., which owns the apartment.

Suel said that, according to the accountant, the company had already sent a notice of request for the tenants to vacate the premises by July 31, 2013.

In February 2009, then-Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona slapped Ramon with a prison sentence of 11 months and seven days for attacking a girl with a broken bottle because he was apparently hungry and wanted to be arrested. The girl sustained injuries in the right palm.

In March 2006, Ramon was given a 132-day prison term for stealing a case of beer and four bottles of liquor from the former Pacific Gardenia's Sunset Bar and Grill in Chalan Kanoa.

The defendant had been arrested many times for burglary and theft cases and for harassing poker customers.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly four years after closing down, the Republic of Palau Consulate will reopen on Saipan, according to honorary consul Jose Lifoifoi.

He disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that Gov. Eloy S. Inos has approved the Palau government's request to set up an administrative and consular office on Saipan that will be dedicated to assisting its citizens in the Commonwealth.

The Palau consulates on Saipan and Guam were shuttered on Dec. 31, 2009, due to funding constraints.

After his re-appointment as Palau's honorary consul, Lifoifoi met with the governor about designating government space for the consulate. A letter from the Palau government was later sent to the governor, who referred the issue to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Lifoifoi said that NMHC approved last week the request to have a dedicated government space for the consulate.

The new Palau Consulate will hold office at Unit No. 43 of the government's housing complex in Garapan. It will be used free of charge. The consulate used to hold offices in Susupe.

Lifoifoi said the Palau government will take care of the renovation, repair, insurance, and maintenance of the building. This is initially estimated to cost about $65,000. Lifoifoi is planning to do fundraisers in order to raise the needed amount.

"The Palau government will bring in its contractor here to do the assessment so we can start the needed renovation and repair of the building unit. On behalf of the Palauans, we're grateful for this great assistance from the CNMI government," Lifoifoi said.

The opening and full operation of Palau's consular office is targeted before the end of the year.

A consulate is a smaller version of an embassy. Consulates and their chief diplomats and consul handle minor diplomatic issues, trade relationships, and taking care of migrants.

Lifoifoi said the Palau Consulate, once established, will assist Palauans to the best of its abilities. Important advisories, announcements, and other matters can easily be relayed to its citizens through a consular office on island, according to him.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau appointed Lifoifoi to the honorary post last month. Lifoifoi's term is for four years. This is the second time that the Palauan president entrusted Lifoifoi with the honorary consul position.

Lifoifoi, also the chairman of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board and chairman of the United Micronesian Development Association. He is the first native of the CNMI to be bestowed an honorary Palauan citizenship.

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Extended dry season plagues Saipan water system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Water customers in some villages and areas on Saipan will experience low water supply or no water at all in the coming days following disclosure that the extended dry season is affecting the water production of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said yesterday that he has alerted customers in the areas surrounding Lower As Teo, I-Denni, and Talafofo that they will continue to experience low pressure and or periodic water outages due to low water production at the Donni Springs well.

"The limited water availability is due to seasonal drought conditions. CUC's operations teams are working to supplement supply to customers in these affected areas by redirecting water from other sources," according to Fletcher.

However, due to system limitations and the seasonal drought conditions, it will take time and more rain to recharge local aquifers, he said.

The dry season usually ends in June, with the entry of the monsoon season.

According to Fletcher, CUC has also experienced a rash of water main breaks and equipment failures to its system in Kagman, San Vicente, and Koblerville areas.

"Most recently, service at the Kumoi booster pump station has been irregular due to dilapidated piping and concrete structures. While CUC has been able to cobble together the station to keep pumps running, water shortages and low pressures in the higher elevations of Papago have resulted," he explained.

He also advised that a portion of Koblerville will be without water today due to a main leak near the JJ Market. Areas affected are residents living on Koblerville road from KB Store to the entrance of the turnkey housing. Repair crews will make the necessary repairs and hopefully restore the water before 9pm.

"CUC apologizes for this inconvenience and will continue to work on increasing supply to the affected areas," the agency said in a statement.

Guam-based PH consulate brings services to Tinian

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Philippines Consulate General in Guam successfully conducted its three-day mobile consular service at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, according to Consul Edgar Thomas Q. Auxillian.

The mobile consular service, which included ePassport processing as well as civil registry and notarial services, was held on Aug. 3, 4, and 5 at the Tinian hotel's Tinian Hall.

Auxillian said the consulate general in Guam was able to accommodate 88 passport applications and accomplished 43 authenticating services ranging from record of birth, marriage, and special power of attorney.

The consul also said at least 25 Filipino nationals asked them about renewal of membership for the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Auxillian advised them the best way to renew their OWWA memberships is to have their relatives in the Philippines submit their renewal applications to the OWWA office in their provinces.

He said they only need to email or fax their relatives back home authenticated copies of their passport, information sheet (downloadable from the OWWA website), and special power of attorney.

Aside from OWWA membership, Auxillian said overseas Filipinos not only in the CNMI but all over the world can renew their memberships or pay their dues on PhilHealth and Social Security System through this way.

The consul said the mobile consular service on the island ran without a hitch. He thanked United Filipinos on Tinian, led by president Rodney S. Cabarles, for helping his team hold the activity.

Cabarles echoed Auxillian. "The appointment and pre-encoded data system really worked well to make the process/delivery of services very efficient and organized. The three-day event served more than a hundred individuals with passport renewals and notarial/civil registry works combined."

He said everyone is thankful that the consulate general in Guam brought their services to Tinian.

"Consul Gary Auxilian and his team were very helpful and accommodating. We were able to share with them the unique problems we have on Tinian and we are satisfied with their responses. We will continue to work closely with the consul general in Guam to make sure that all the concerns of our *kababayans* here are adequately addressed."

Cabrales also thanked UniFil's officers, board of directors, advisers, and certain members who supported the consular team in different ways.

"My special thanks to those who dedicated their time and resources to provide a warm welcome to our special guests. This event once again proves the importance of having a strong Filipino organization on island that will spearhead and coordinate such a critical activity, provide official representation on behalf of the association members, and provide assistance to those who would otherwise not have direct access to correct information and consular services. Once more, I am inviting all the Filipinos on Tinian to be part of the UniFil and share your individual talents for the benefit of the group."

Cabarles also extended his thanks to Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, JC Cafe, and 3Hi-Res Designs for arranging accommodations, providing food, and making the banner for the mobile consular services.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Consul Edgar Thomas Q. Auxillian of the Philippines Consulate General in Guam poses with his staff and officials and members of the United Filipinos on Tinian during the mobile consular services held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino from Aug. 3 to 5.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. Division Monthly Reports
b. Update on CDBG Matters
c. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
d. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
1. Loans for Review and Approval
e. Garapan Properties for Sale/Lease – 003 D 16 and 003 D22
IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
a. Rota Field Office
b. Tinian Field Office
V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. Amended FY 2014 Budget
b. Fiscal Division Audit Reports
c. Tottotville Settlement
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, August 22 , 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of July 25, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments
B. Public Hearings
1. **Conditional Use Application #2013-0055.** Dr. Gene S. Eagle Oden of Mango Resort is proposing to convert his Multifamily Apartment complex under Minor Site Plan Permit #2011-6445 into a Hotel operation with amendments to the site development plan. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lot EA 216-2-1 & EA 216-3 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Rezone Application #2011-6766.** Mr. Roy Alexander of Alexander Realty & Development is requesting to rezone lots 330-4, 330-R2, 330-3, and 330-2 from Village Commercial to Tourist Resort, for the construction and operation of a hotel with commercial space units. These areas are located across from the former Mobil Gas station in Oleai, and north of Kilili Beach Park.
C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
1. Update on Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Business (Poker) law of 2013
E. New Business
1. Office operations report
F. Executive (Closed) Session.
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Mango Resort

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Dr. Gene S. Eagle Oden is proposing to convert his Multifamily Apartment complex under Minor Site Plan Permit #2011-6445 into a Hotel operation with amendments to the site development plan. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lots EA 216-2-1 & EA 216-3 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: August 22, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, August 21, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Grotto enhancements start with a new signboard

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Grotto, one of the most iconic tourist sites of the Commonwealth, is now undergoing a makeover, starting with the unveiling of a new signboard that gives visitors proper and necessary information for their safety.

This will be followed soon with the installation of a security guard and a lifeguard to monitor activities at site and keep tourists and divers safe at all times.

According to Ed Arriola Jr., vice chair of the Marianas Visitor Authority's destination enhancement committee, the informative and full-color signage emphasizes the potential dangers of the Grotto, a popular dive site. Warnings are written in various languages and pinpoint areas that are deemed risky spots.

Arriola said that an American Red Cross-certified lifeguard will be placed at the bottom of stairs to the Grotto to keep tourists and divers safe. This will be a one-month trial basis with G4S. The lifeguard will have radio to communicate with the security guard up in the parking lot, who will enforce the no-smoking rule, control traffic, and keep an eye out for potential dangers.

The committee will also soon issue a request-for-proposal for the renovations and repair of the Grotto, Bird Island, and Banzai Cliff, according to Arriola.

Funding for these projects will be sourced from the hotel occupancy tax. The panel will get 5 percent of the 15 percent tax per room being collected by the government.

"Now with the 5 percent of the hotel occupancy tax mandated to go to our committee, the CNMI finally has a chance to develop and further enhance our products for our tourists. The tourists spend 5 percent of their dollars to allow us to do our job. …We need to give back to them a product that will create memories for them and their families as well as give our people a sense of pride in knowing that they have a clean and safe island," said Arriola.

He concedes that it will take time for the committee to accomplish all its goals but they aim to move forward smoothly and steadily, with all stakeholders contributing input.

Saipan Tribune learned that during a committee meeting on July 30, destination enhancement chair Chris Nelson shows a 30-second commercial that will be aired periodically. The main purpose of the commercial is to get the community involved and have them submit ideas for beautification and new ideas. The same program will also share what the committee is doing with the public.

"We need to give back to our tourists for contributing a fund chest of 15 percent per room. Tourists deserve some services for their taxes," said Arriola.

The destination enhancement committee is composed of members that bring with them a strong background in renovating and rehabilitating the CNMI's tourism products. In the organization are engineers, architects, experienced marketers and hotel/tour operators, restaurants, and real estate developers, including airline executives.

Besides Nelson and Arriola, its members are Sonya Dancoe; Alex Youn; KJ Kim; Gordon Marciano; Alex Sablan; Erick Van Der Maas; Marian Aldan Pierce; Chris Fryling; and Nick Nishikawa.

'LET'S MAKE A DEAL!'

PIC Palooza Party is on!

Are you ready to party for a good cause? The 6th annual PIC Palooza is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013, starting at 6:30pm, at Charley's Cabaret. This year's beneficiary is the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, which provides services and programs to the people of Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands.

Red Cross Emergency Services director J.D. Tenorio, expressed appreciation to the PIC for choosing the NMI Chapter as the beneficiary for this year's Palooza.

"The Red Cross relies on the generosity of the community to continue programs such as disaster relief, health and safety training and education, and lifesaving classes," Tenorio said.

PIC executive Glenn Policare said that PIC "recognizes the hardship that many nonprofit organizations face in the CNMI. The PIC Palooza is one way that we can provide some support and we count on everyone to come out and be a part of this fun event."

Past beneficiaries of the PIC Palooza include the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Guma Esperanza Women's Shelter, PAWS, Beautify CNMI, and Karidat.

Tickets for the Palooza can be purchased at the PIC front desk, or by calling 237-5103. For just $25 per person (must be over 21), everyone can enjoy amazing appetizers, cold draft beer, wine, soda, and lots of exciting games and prizes. ***(PR)***

Cultural lessons at Saipan public library

After an incredibly successful *2013* Dig Into Reading Program last Friday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting various cultural activities every Saturday beginning Aug. 10, from 12pm to 2pm, and throughout the month of August 2013.

Learn various cultural skills from bead-making, mwaar-making and flower-making, to storytelling from local artists and a noted author. These activities are made possible in partnership with NMI Mother-eread Program through a DCCA Community Service Block Grant. All programs are free of charge.

For more information, visit the public library during regular hours, Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm; and Saturday, from 9am to 4pm. The library is closed on Sunday, Monday and holidays. Call the library at 235-7316 or 7322, or visit its website, http://www.cnmilibrary.com. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

We would like to wish Lexie Lana Mendiola Lizama a happy, happy second birthday! May God always watch over you, keep you safe, and protect you from danger. Have a great day at World Resort! We love you so much, baby girl! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Auntie Jo, Kuya Dylan, Ate Karly, Ate Crysha and everybody from the Chalan Kiya ranch.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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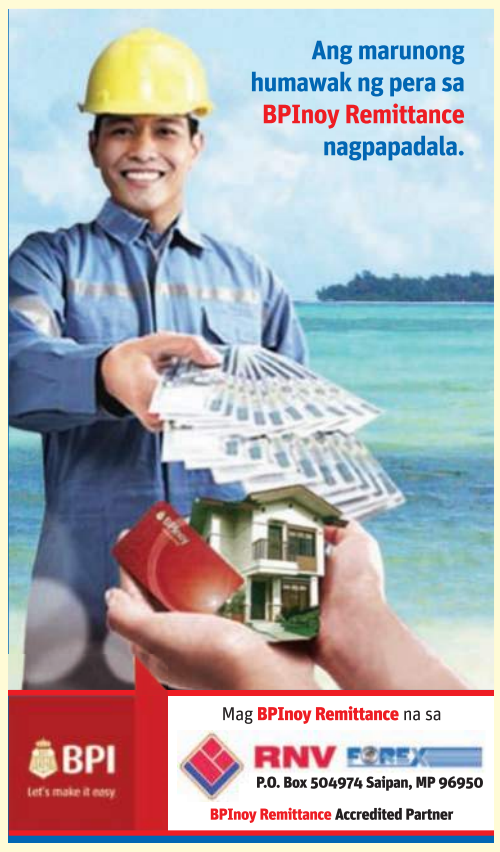
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- Villaroyal Pawnshop – Oleai, San Jose
- 3-Hires Designs – Mar. Business Plaza, Susupe
- Island Store – Tinian
- Villaroyal Pawnshop – Rota

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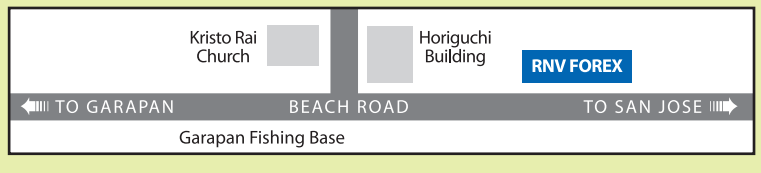

"Para sa mabilis at matipid na pagpapadala ng pera sa Pilipinas, Mag BPInoy Remittance na.
Dahil and marunong humawak ng pera, sa BPInoy remittance nagpapadala."

Guam Guard's 254th SFS team prepares for deployment

Over 30 members of the 254th Security Forces Squadron of the Guam Air National Guard prepare to mobilize later this summer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By SENIOR AIRMAN AUDREYA J.P. TAITANO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, GUAM AIR NATIONAL GUARD

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Guam—Overseas deployments continue for the Guam Air National Guard with over 30 members of the 254th Security Forces Squadron preparing to mobilize later this summer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Airmen with the team were officially placed on active-duty status last week. Predeployment training has been underway to include mounted patrols, dismounted patrols, collapsible baton skills, law enforcement skills, and weapons qualifications, according to Capt. Alvin Alvarez, who will serve as the 254th SFS team commander during the deployment.

The team is tasked to support the Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Force mission in Southwest Asia. This tasking falls under the Air Force Central Command where the airmen will be primarily focused on the provision of base defense measures, inclusive of personnel and resource security.

Senior Airman Anthony Toves, security forces patrol member for the 254th SFS, will embark on his first deployment and has spent considerable time with fellow Guard members ramping up for the mission.

"My predeployment training has helped me gain more knowledge on how to deal with deployment stress and also helped me gain a better understanding on how to properly do my job and perform excellence in being a mission-ready airman," said Toves.

The 254th SFS has deployed several teams over the years in support of OEF with this being their 5th deployment.

2 Guam Guard SFAT soldiers return home

Two more soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard Security Forces Advisory Team returned home on Aug. 4, after completing their deployment in Afghanistan. The last team member is slated to return next week.

The team of 13 soldiers left island in July last year and arrived in Afghanistan in October 2012. They served as part of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (Hawaii Army National Guard) contingent of 20 SFATs. An SFAT is typically a 12-person team.

The two soldiers who arrived Sunday morning were Chief Warrant Officer 3 Noel Camaganacan and Sgt. Noel Custodio.

These last three soldiers returning stayed back to complete other administrative and logistical tasks, as well as assist in the transition of an incoming unit, according to Lt. Col. Frank Tominez, SFAT team leader.

The bulk of the team members returned to Guam in late June.

SFATs were tasked with mentoring and teaching their Afghan national partners in the areas of intelligence, communications, fire support, logistics, and infantry tactics. Their overall goal was to help improve security for Afghan civilians by working to train and improve their indigenous security forces. Each SFAT also observed and reported on the abilities of the new security forces. The SFAT Soldiers worked with their Afghan counterparts to develop understanding of the rule of law and human rights.

The Guam SFAT worked with the Afghan National Civil Order Police. The GUARNG SFAT team was one of two Guam Army Guard units mobilized and deployed over the last year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Close to 600 soldiers from Guam and the CNMI of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment are currently assigned to various parts of Afghanistan, conducting a variety of security missions. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 8, 2005

Embattled mayor explains side

TINIAN—Despite the controversy spurred by his attempt at bringing together U.S. Pacific war veterans and Japanese survivors of the 1945 atomic bombings, Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja expressed hope that Saturday's commemoration events contribute to the campaign against weapons of mass destruction. Borja spoke at the two separate ceremonies held here on Saturday to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Atomic Mission to Japan: first, before the Japanese delegation at the Gandhi-Ikeda-King Peace Gardens, and then, before U.S. veterans at the North Field Bomb Pits. At exactly 9:15am (8:15am in Hiroshima), Borja joined the crowd gathered at the Peace Gardens in prayer, as sirens were sounded to honor the lives lost when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

'Ban nuclear weapons'

TINIAN—Local residents and Japanese delegates to the commemoration of the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked the event on Saturday with a moment of silence and emotional pleas to all nations for the abolition of nuclear weapons. At 9:15am (8:15am in Hiroshima), a crowd of about 50 Japanese and local individuals bowed in prayer and paid tribute to the victims of the atomic bombs that were launched from here and dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60 years ago. The silence was broken only by the sirens of police vehicles and fire trucks passing the Gandhi-Ikeda-King Peace Gardens, where the memorial ceremony was being held. Meanwhile, Keijiro Matsushima, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, chanted softly while clutching a prayer book and a bracelet of Buddhist beads.

August 8, 2006

Car sales down 31 percent

Total auto sales in the CNMI dropped by 31 percent as of last month, bringing the total brand new units sold from January to July this year to 669, down from the 966 posted during the same period last year. Latest statistics from the Commonwealth Auto Dealer's Association showed that for July 2006, local dealers sold only 80 vehicles, a 24-percent decline from July 2005's 105 units. Microl Corp. topped car sales with 32 units sold last month, representing 40 percent of the local market. Joeten Motors sold 27 vehicles, cornering 33 percent, while Triple J sold 21 cars, which represents 26 percent of the total market share.

Lawmakers, admin to meet on budget

Legislative leaders will meet with the administration tomorrow to discuss differences over budget allocation for fiscal year 2007. Senate President Joseph Mendiola yesterday said he hoped to get the budget passed in a Senate session set for Friday, Aug. 11, 2006. But the Senate action still hinges on the outcome of its efforts to mediate between the House and the Executive Branch, which have submitted conflicting budget proposals. "If there is no consensus, we may have to postpone the meeting or reject the House version," Mendiola said.

August 8, 2007

High court boosts number of House lawmakers to 20

Instead of cutting the number of lawmakers in the House of Representatives as petitioned by two residents, the CNMI Supreme Court issued a ruling yesterday that will increase the number to 20. The high court decided on the increase from the current 18 after determining that all residents, including nonresident workers, should be included for purposes of apportioning the House.

'Deal with the problem, not statistics'

A ranking official of the U.S. Interior Department yesterday lashed back at the Fitial administration over human trafficking issue in the Commonwealth. David B. Cohen, the deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, said the local government should stop debating statistics and start dealing with the human trafficking problem. "Rather than debating statistics, let's all acknowledge the obvious: We have a problem here, and we should all work together to address it. Reasonable people can disagree about whether federalization is the best way to address this problem. We won't be able to address the problem, however, unless we are willing to acknowledge that the problem exists," Cohen said.

Multinational search for 3 fishermen

CHUUK, FSM—Multiple agencies from the U.S. and Federated States of Micronesia coordinated efforts, over the course of four days, to locate three fishermen aboard a 19-foot skiff that were reported overdue on Aug. 3. A total of 2,609 square nautical miles were covered during the search.

On Aug. 3, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report from Chuuk's Search and Rescue Liaison of an overdue 19-foot skiff with three persons aboard that was reportedly fishing five to seven nautical miles west of Chuuk Lagoon. The vessel was expected to have returned 24 hours after its departure on Aug. 2.

Sector Guam coordinated search efforts from several commercial vessels, A U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft out of Kadena, Japan and an FSM patrol boat, FSS *Independence*. As requests were being made through diplomatic channels, for the identification of additional surface and air resources, commercial vessels transiting through the area volunteered to provide assistance. The Navy P-3 joined the search on Aug. 5, and completed 842 square nautical miles. FSS *Independence* was steaming toward the search location and the Navy P-3 was preparing for a second flight, when the three men were reported safe and sound on Aug. 6.

Sector Guam received an updated report from the Chuuk SAR Liaison that the three men made it back to Tol Island, Chuuk Lagoon. The men experienced engine problems off Piianu Pass during the afternoon of Aug. 2, which left them disabled and adrift. Fishermen in the area spotted the vessel a few days later and were able to tow them to a small island in the area. The men were eventually towed to Tol Island on the morning of Aug. 6. The men sustained themselves by consuming rainwater, water they had aboard, bread fruit, and caught fish. ***(USCG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 8-9, from 11:30am to 3pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above. The waters surrounding Farallon de Medinilla are open for fishing from 4am Aug. 10 to noon on Aug. 12. As a reminder, Farallon de Medinilla is off-limits due to safety and security concerns. ***(PR)***

UOG Regent Nominating Council meeting

The regular meeting of the University of Guam Regent Nominating Council will be held Friday, Aug. 9, 2013, at 12pm in the President's Office conference room, on the second floor of the Jesus S. & Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building. The University of Guam complies with Guam Public Law 24-109 with reference to the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance contact Elaine Faculo-Gogue, UOG EEO Office, Room 106, Iya Hami, at 735-2244 or (TTY) 735-2243. ***(UOG)***

Red Cross health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Wed., Aug. 14, at 5:30pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Wed., Aug. 14, at 5:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Wed., Aug. 14, at 5:30pm: First Aid Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(PR)***

CNMI readies for Exercise KONFITMA

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office is informing the public that the U.S. Army Pacific, in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the CNMI response community, will be conducting a 36-hour all-hazard Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive situational training exercise.

Exercise "KONFITMA" is scheduled for Friday Aug. 9, to Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, and will take place at various locations throughout Saipan: Garapan, Governor's Office, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Kagman High School, Koblerville, As Gonno, Kagman II, San Roque, Marpi, and the ports of Saipan (airport and seaport).

To ensure the safety of the community, the HSEM and partner agencies ask that the public take extra precautionary measures when near any of the various exercise locations. For more information, contact the CNMI HSEM at 664-2216 or 237-8001/2/3. ***(Office of the Governor)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-147

Tinian Health Center Medical Equipment

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Medical Equipment for the Tinian Health Center.

The project package will be available Friday, July 26, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 9, 2013** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "**ITB13-GOV-147**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 26, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time August 26, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 26, 2013** and must be received no later than **September 2, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 27, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at **10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on August 26, 2013**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Cash or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245.. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (**60**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (**$100.00**), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BIDS
CUC-ITB-13-023

SURVEYED VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-13-023, CUC Surveyed Vehicles"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles.

The vehicles may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 235-7025.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 14, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Assistant for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Friday, August 9, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. New Business
a. TDHC Casino Employee Applications

IV. Executive Session

V. Miscellaneous / Administrative Matters

VI. Adjournment

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-046

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 07, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2013

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN.**

SALARY: $19,425.00 to $25,300.00 per annum.

POSITIONS: Four (4)

CONTRACT: Not contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate's Degree in Accounting or related field and three years of progressively responsible experience in the area assigned. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Administrative Procedures; Customer service principles and other applicable laws, rules, regulations; Basic mathematics; Telephone etiquette; Office policies and procedures. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local Laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting/financial principles; Recording analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting of transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED & ARE SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off a the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A-Rod, baseball and honesty

If you're a fan of honest sports competition, you could regard Monday as a very good day. Major League Baseball lowered the boom on 13 players whom it says got performance-enhancing drugs from a Miami clinic, and 12 of them agreed to 50-game suspensions without pay.

Among them were all-stars like Nelson Cruz of the Texas Rangers and Jhonny Peralta of the Detroit Tigers. Then there is the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, who will be allowed to play while appealing his suspension for 211 games—which would keep him off the field through next season.

All this comes on top of the action last month against Ryan Braun of the Milwaukee Brewers, who was sidelined for 65 games. Commissioner Bud Selig is sending a message that players who resort to forbidden drugs will be caught—even if they don't fail a drug test. These players apparently turned up on lists of clients that MLB got from a former employee of the Biogenesis clinic.

But if you're a fan of honest sports competition, Monday was also a very bad day. The investigation makes it clear that some players continue to cheat, seven years after MLB and the players union agreed on a tougher drug-testing system.

Rodriguez could serve as the poster child for what's wrong with professional sports. In 2009, following a report that he had failed a confidential drug test in 2003, he admitted using forbidden drugs for two years, explaining, "I was young, I was stupid, I was naive. And I wanted to prove to everyone that I was worth being one of the greatest players of all time."

A-Rod is now 38, way past the age when he could plead youth and naivete. Yet here he is again being implicated in the use of a banned substance. Apparently the only things he learned from his previous experience are that cheating works and you can get away with it.

It's possible he will beat the rap—though the willingness of the other players to accept their fate suggests the evidence obtained from Biogenesis is pretty strong. Given his age and his injury-prone body—he played his first major league game this season Monday night against the White Sox following January hip surgery—Rodriguez may figure a 211-game suspension could end his career. He may figure he can get the number reduced so he can return before 2015. Or maybe he just can't resist a chance to hog the spotlight.

Major League Baseball has come a long way from its blithe disregard of juicing back in the 1990s, which produced a surge of offense that was good for ticket sales but ultimately left many fans disillusioned. Over the past offseason, the union agreed to the first-ever testing for human growth hormone and synthetic testosterone, giving baseball the toughest testing system in American professional sports.

But as long as competitors feel the need to gain an edge and believe they have a good chance of eluding detection, some of them will cheat. These suspensions, which force the guilty players to miss just a couple of months, may not be enough to change behavior. Former Commissioner Fay Vincent notes that a single breach of the rule against gambling "results in permanent expulsion from the game" and thinks the same sanction should apply to PED-users.

Stiffer sentences would be a more potent disincentive to using banned substances. Whatever you think about the players caught this time, it is unrealistic to expect they'll be the last.

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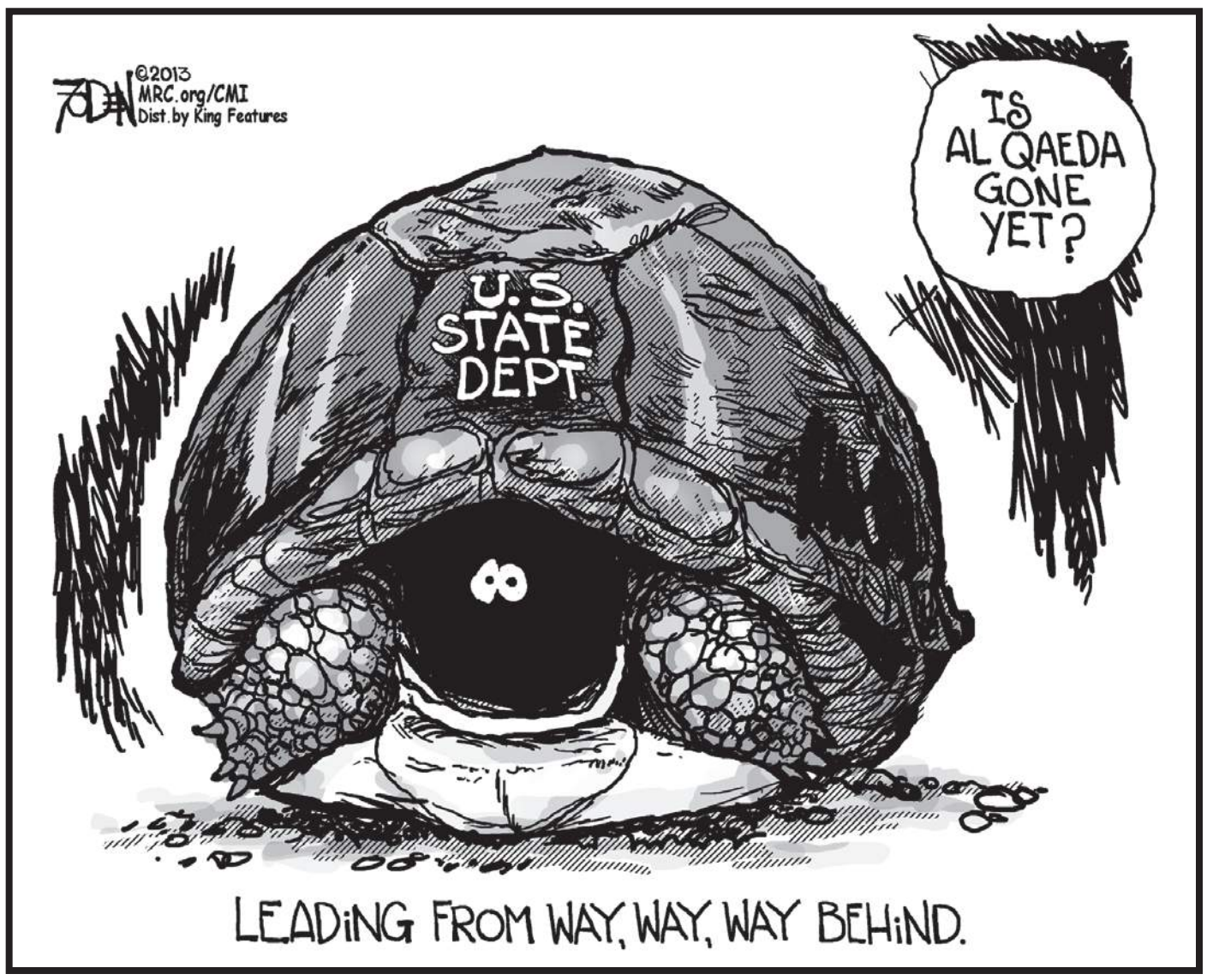


Baying at the August moon

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

Bradley Manning who earlier fed WikiLeaks information on Afghanistan and the U.S. military was found innocent on the charge of aiding and abetting the enemy. His case also showed that no one was hurt as a consequence of the leaks. This is no consolation. Manning will still spend the rest of his life behind bars with the guilty judgment on the other charges. Not to mention the precarious state of his sanity!

"Whistleblower" is becoming a more respectable *nom de paix* as the 26-year-old Edward Snowden gets labeled with the term rather than the earlier title of "traitor" he received from American politicians after he showed up in Hong Kong from Aloha land and revealed himself to be the source of data about NSA's info dragnet that hit front page news. A recent survey showed a 55 percent agreement versus a 34 disapproval of Snowden's action.

With Julian Assange of WikiLeaks tossing his hat into Aussie politics, we might actually develop a new relationship with the acts of conscience (or, subversion) of those we have chosen to reveal to us truths beyond the official lines.

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free!

In an early Tony Randall movie, *The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao,* one of the seven roles he plays as he brought his circus into an Arizona town is that of Appolonius of Tyana, a blind prophet, cursed to tell the absolute truth, no matter how cruel and shocking it may be. He tells a foolish but Pollyannish widow Mrs. Cassan that she will never be married again, no oil will be discovered on her property, she will live a lonely and meaningless existence, and having not accomplished much, that she might as well have never lived at all.

In a huff, the local matron leaves her dark future behind and merrily tells friends of an opposite and rosy prediction. Not unlike the rest of us, she rests easier on illusions of the past and delusions of the future.

Sometime in the mid-'70s, I visited a *Pinay* at Claremont Graduate School in Pasadena and was briefly introduced to two of her classmates. My friend now lives in SF; her classmates could not possibly remember me as I could not possibly remember them. I did have a chance to visit with one some 35 years later in Portland, Oregon. The other became a writer and now teaches at U Wisconsin-Madison, home to alternative youth politics in the late '70s. Her name is Alison and she writes poetry.

One of Alison's book of poems, *The Blue Dress,* was shown me in 2010, and after reading the first poem titled *Red: A Poem in Five Parts,* I set aside the book for later, partly dismissing it as just another fancy account of a coming-of-age. Well, this week while confined indoors with gastroenteritis, and cleaning out my records, files and books, the book joined me in bed again for what I thought was going to be leisurely reading.

Before I knew it, Alison was strumming my life with her poems. I've always thought of a good writer as one who tells of real life and in the process, makes the telling transparent so that I get to see my own. Alison is obviously female and the difference in physiology is basic, but knowing how to wash white clothes with cold water after the "red," or going through what the body knows in the attraction of forbidden liaisons, or the loss of a loved one after a valiant fight—the particular is not what mattered; it was the feel of real and authentic telling in vivid terms that got us staring at the exposed core of our being.

Her self-consciousness left us alarmingly vulnerable. She wrote after a bout of depression: "But afterwards I couldn't stop crying at how close that underworld still is, and how clearly I remember the taste of dirt in my mouth. And how the predilection for sadness is embedded within me, an obsidian arrow lodged in the heart, no matter how tight your good arms are around me, or how much sunlight I stand in, or how far I've traveled away from the dark."

To stand in sunlight with her, now that she has kept me company for a day while I was in an acute state when I knew what the body knew, I am wary at getting singed and seared by the proximity of her intensity and lucidity.

There are some things that come as a gift in a moment of clarity; it may also come as a curse. Alison and her obvious Persephone-like identification of the paradox of spring-like new life and the winter of death in Hades was a bit too much for our rather weakened constitution at the time we got the full blast of it.

But like every event of liberation, the suffering unto death occurs before the incidence of resurrection. Besides, today marks the end of summer and the first day of autumn in the lunar calendar. Alison and the crescent moon lit our journey path this day.

Yue liang dai biao wo de xin, the moon mirrors my heart, by the late Deng Lijun (Teresa Tang of Taiwan, ex-girlfriend of Jackie Chan who died of asthma at the age of 42 in Thailand), is a popular Chinese song that I had to rewrite lyrics for (from Internet translation) to make it sing-able in my Oral English class. It is a winner. Part of the reason is the imagery of the moon. As Egypt has the sun, China has her moon, thus, have permission to be playfully "lunatic."

We're baying at the August moon tonight. W-o-o-o-o-o-!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mapunu' fondun Tinian homestead

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Ti komprendiyon hafa i representanten iya Tinian as Trenton Connor na para u bota "Yes" i mana' suhan $2 miyon para homestead Tinian.

Trampusau na che'chu muron lau kase pot gaige gi mampos tatkilu' na hogsu' na tiha sesiente i chinatsagan 582 na applikanten homestead.

Diariu i los prohimus man-achiget kulan satdinas 'nai mañasaga pa'gu. Kada oga'an' todu i membron familia u fan anañgga gi usun komun yan bañu.

Tinatiye este ni filan chumochu kulan mohon galin militat. Mampos mahihot i gima' ayu mina masuñgun gi hilu' esperansa na un' dia u fan gai lugat para i primet na gima' familia.

Lau este na guinifen matriatka yan patriatkan familia pininu' 'nai ha bota si Rep. Connor mapunu' $2 miyon pesus para homestead giya Tinian. Lastima! Mauleg mahusga haf" lihitimu rasoña na ha hasñgun sumapet i 582 na applikanten homestead.

Guinaiyan Patgon Matai

Sessu hu huñgog ha kanta "Eskaminan Guinaiya", un' sunidu 'nai sige ume'emahalañg piot gi lemlem tautau 'sino chata'an.

Dispues, hu batbruye fumaisen haf" na sessu ha kanta ayu na sunidu. Ilegña, "Kantan nanahu ni sessu ha kantaye-yu' 'nai makuarentena gi hospitat Japones pot chenot TB".

Era i hospitat Japones giya Garapan 'nai mana' saga si nanaña. 'An ha bisita, guaha i amku' 'nai ha tañga chumochu tininon mai'es.

Ti matman, man-gagau dispensu ya humanau. Desde iya Garapan malagu para i gualu' niha giya As Teo. Gigon mattu, manugan kuattru na talañgan mai'es ya ha tunu. Ha balutan ya ha tutuhon malagu tatte Garapan.

Mafattu tatte gi kase 'las nuebe gi pupueñge. Dispues, hanae' i amku' ni mai'es, inecha bendision ya ha tutuhon malagu luchan para iya Chalan Kanoa. Ha chochugue este kada semana.

Un' pueñge 'nai man-besita, halie' bonita yan magof na matan nanaña. Sige ta'lu ha kanta "Eskaminan Guinaiya". Sumiha i dos kumanta dispues ha despide si nanaña. I sigiente dia man-masañgane na dimalas esta i biha.

I finatai i amku' tutuhon tinilaika lokue' gi ha'aniña diariu kumu patgon. Matratan amku' ya todu klasen cho'chu' fuetsau manachogue. Sen ti manae' kampu para u dañkulu hulu otdinariu taimanu dipotsihe finapos patgon. "Guiya ayu ihu gi finu' man-amku' i mafa' esklabon familia hau ya ennau pinadese yan finaposhu".

Bes enkuandu, hu guadog mas finaposña. Ha gomgum-yu' sa' pot primet biahe hu huñgog kumuentos lau hagas ti mefnu' na amku'. "Tai achaigua guinaiyan nana-hu, i man-mames siha na konkariñu, akonsehu yan attension".

I uttimu biahe 'nai hu huñgog ta'lu kumanta "Eskamina" mas triste mataña na esta chatta' hohoñga bosña ni finalulon didog na triniste. "Ai! Un' dia bai' dalalag i sumen kariñosa na nanahu". Ti apmam yan ayu, madispone lokue' i amku'. Hu hahassu-gue' gi tinayuyot-hu ya una' fafagpu' gi kantaña "Eskamina".

Finapos un' patgon matai ni sumen guaiya si nanaña espesiatmente gi guinifiña.

Anaku' na linala'la'

Kaduku i tanu' piot gi entre man-bibisnes pot hinemlu'. Todu klasen atte guaha desde baitamin (vitamin), etsisiu, neñkanu' yan fonten (fountain of youth) hoben.

Kontodu mana' fros (freeze) ilun niha 'an man-matai gi hilu' hineñgge na un' dia u bira siha dispues de man-deskansan ñaihon. Esta pa'gu ni unu hulilie' bimirague'.

Buente gai minauleg sineyu' hinemlu'. Gi mismu tiempu dudayu' kau hagu mismu un' agradese luma'la' esta sien anos 'nai chata' kalalamten hau.

Haf" baliña sien años 'nai esta lagu' todu sinsenmu, kada ratu hau un' tatke, mimilalag mikosmu ni ti siña un' sausau, mapada' sa' lache pegamu ni kichalan neñkanu' yan otru siha chinatsaga?

Mauleg na intension pot hinemlu' lau sede i regulat na siklun linala' ya umasusede naturatmiente. Ti hu diseseha mafa' makina ni tai bali piot ya sessu matobus sa' estotbu. ***

Man-hanau guine gi alacha na tiempu megai bisinu gi Lali Fo'. Desde man-amku' yan cha-idathu, megaiña manaigue.

Lamegai lokue' na sakan man-hanau na tautau-ta. Guiya este i naturat na siklun sien años 'nai ha gatgarasgue' i tanu' gi naturatña.

Mafattu este gi hechuran ira desde linau, dilubiu, pagpag botkan, hinalom dañkulu na tasi (tsunami), pagyu, ti amtiyun siha na chenot 'nai megai man-kineni'.

Unu' ha' umestototba-yu' taduñg: Sessu hu huñgog ekun sumen na'mañau na linau ni humiga' enteru iya Marianas. I destrosiu inipus ya lamegai man-pininu' punta pot punta.

Poressu na sessu hu abisa i offisiat gobietnu siha na umana' guaha kabales na preparasion pot siankassu mattu este na ira. Diberas sumen na'mañau!

An open letter to Jeff Bezos

By GENE WEINGARTEN
The Washington Post

Dear Jeff,

Welcome to The Post. I have read that the $250 million you paid for this newspaper is roughly 1 percent of your net worth, making it about as risky and consequential a purchase for you as a used 2003 Honda Civic might be for me. Still, I hope and strongly suspect you will not see it as a plaything, or, to extend the already shaky metaphor, a vehicle for promoting your bigger enterprises. I am presuming that despite the chump-change numbers, this is a big deal for you, and that you plan to roll up your sleeves and be the guy who finds a way to make conventional journalism succeed financially. I'd like to offer some advice.

Back in 1982, when I was an editor at Tropic, the Miami Herald's Sunday magazine, the publisher asked us to run a story on our cover about the winners of The Silver Knight award, which was given out every year at a gala to the most promising high school seniors in the Miami area. The Silver Knights were a fine and noble enterprise, but the event was run and financed by Knight-Ridder, the corporate owners of The Miami Herald; Herald stories about the Silver Knight awards were inevitably uncritical, nakedly celebratory, and drenched in self-promotion. We at Tropic declined to run the story of the awards on the grounds that we were a small magazine trying to establish a feisty, pugnacious identity, and being a corporate suckup toady lickspittle didn't fit in with our plans. The publisher glowered, muttered something about insubordination, and steered the story to another, less visible section of the paper. We went unpunished.

Wikipedia tells me that one of the Silver Knight winners that year was little Jeffrey Bezos of Miami Palmetto High School. Haha.

You and I briefly crossed paths as younger men, and I dissed you. I guess it's clear who won that race.

Here's the thing: We were right to decline that story, Jeff, but, more to the point, our publisher was wise to LET us decline. In the next 10 years, freed to robustly experiment with an outsize personality, Tropic would develop a fanatic following in Miami, and our writers and photographers would win two Pulitzers and be finalists for two more. That happened because the people above us trusted us, if grudgingly, and—more important—had our backs.

I was telling this tale of tolerated impertinence to Howard Simons, the brilliant newspaper editor at The Washington Post, shortly before he died of cancer in 1990. He smiled and said that it embodied his most important principle as a newspaper manager: "Kick up, kiss down." Aggravate your bosses, but make the people below you love and respect you. Katharine Graham and Don Graham were brilliant at this—they must have given their board of directors fits, because during the great years they chose aggressive journalism over penny-pinching every time—and we loved them for it. It's an irreplaceable advantage, loyalty drawn from affection and respect.

My father once told me that he felt grief-stricken at the sudden death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945, but not fear that the country was now in the hands of some obscure haberdasher named Truman. My father knew only one thing about Truman, really—that in failing health, and in the middle of a world war, F.D.R. had chosen him, and so Truman must be a good man. That was enough for my father.

I think I speak for more than myself when I say that the main reason I have high hopes for your stewardship is that Don Graham said it was the right thing for the paper. He said you are the right guy. That was enough for me.

"Great" is an overused term, and sports has rendered it almost meaningless, so I won't say you have just bought a "great" newspaper. I'm not even sure you've bought a "newspaper" in any understood sense. You have bought a place filled with enormously talented and dedicated journalists who are, at the moment, terrified at the prospect of change we don't really understand. We've already lost some fine people to that terror.

You are obviously a good businessman, and you are said to be a visionary. I hope you have a clear vision of where to take this remarkable enterprise. As you go there, please remember to kick up, and kiss down.

And sorry about the Silver Knight. But we were right.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Which island should have casinos?

Which CNMI island is the best for a casino hotel to maximize revenue and exposure to the tourism industry? Let us evaluate.

ROTA

Rota has an existing law allowing casino gaming on the island. Several years ago, a mini-casino was opened at the former Rota Hotel. It operated for several months but then it closed down for lack of tourists patronizing the establishment. It closed down because the owners did not have enough capital to sustain its operations, with some employees not getting their wages in a timely manner. At present, the Rota Resort is applying for a casino license, but no action has yet been realized. (The law authorizes up to five casino licenses)

Big challenges facing casino investors encompass transportation between Guam, Saipan, and international passengers flying to the island and the lack of infrastructure development such as public power and sewer systems that is hampering new developments.

TINIAN

The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is the lone casino on the island. It opened its doors for business in 1997 and up until 2013 the casino is still not making any profit for its owners. It is currently behind in its employee payrolls for several months; it owes the CNMI government nearly $30 million in taxes; it's in big trouble with the federal government (IRS) and possibly facing a lien of over $100 million.

At a recent public hearing on Saipan conducted by the Senate for the Saipan casino bill, a Saipan resident recommended that the CNMI government foreclose on the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino before the federal government put out the first lien on their assets. It is a shame that the Tinian Gaming Commission did not properly monitor enforcements to protect their only industry. It took the bomb of the federal IRS for the commission to start acting on enforcement. I think the Commission needs to be investigated by Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General for possible corruption and mismanagement of the casino tax revenues.

SAIPAN

Saipan is expected to reach more than 400,000 tourist arrivals in 2013. Most of the tourists' activities include shopping, restaurants, Mañagaha fun in the sun, hotels, and golf courses. We also have all the infrastructures to include water, power, and sewer systems. Any new development, especially hotel and casino development, can be absorbed by Saipan's infrastructure. Since most of the tourists are on Saipan, we need to keep them busy by providing a lot of activities, to include zipline, cable cars, skating arenas, entertainment centers, convention centers, and casinos. The proposed Saipan casinos will certainly solidify our goals in capturing the tourist dollars we desperately need. Our ultimate goal should be to get our visitors to spend most of the money they bring to Saipan, so that our economy can grow! I hope this evaluation of the most desirable island to develop the casino industry will be taken seriously by our elected leaders. Our motto on Saipan is to share our wealth and economic success with all three islands: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. One Commonwealth, one people!

Vicente M. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

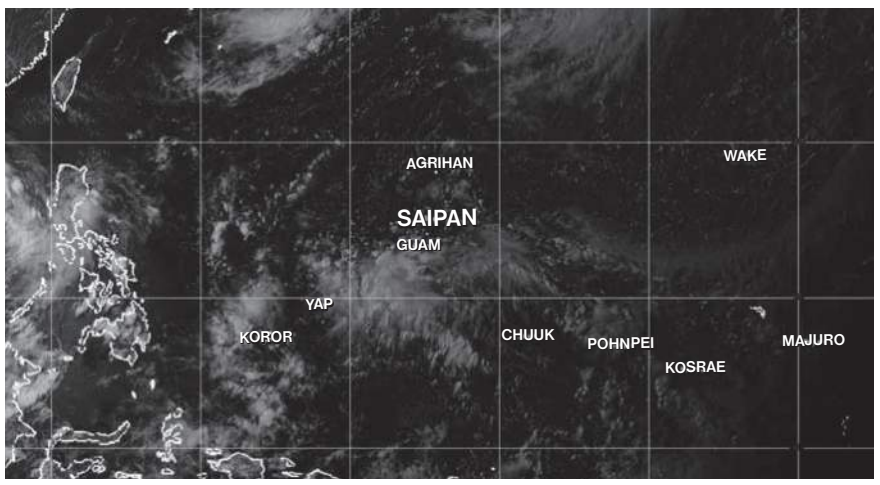
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Sunny	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲76	▼71
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼80
Paris	Showers	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲90	▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲95	▼75
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲91	▼80
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from Mindanao through 7N130E to a broad circulation centered near Koror at 6N135E then turns northeastward as a surface trough to end southeast of Guam at 12N150E. Upper-level lows are centered north of Yap at 15N140E and near Saipan at 15N146E. Upper-level divergence south of these lows is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the circulation and surface trough over Koror and Yap within 230 miles of a line from 9N132E to 13N143E. Similar conditions are also found from south of Guam to near Chuuk within 105 miles of a line from 11N144E to 12N150E to 5N154E. Converging surface winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 3N from 137E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers south of Pohnpei between the equator and 2N from 156E to 160E. A surface trough reaches northeastward from southwest of Kwajalein at 6N166E to 17N180. Isolated thunderstorms are seen north of Pohnpei, Kosrae and south of Kwajalein within 55 miles of a line from 9N158E to 7N165E to 7N170E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present farther northeast between 13N and 18N from 174E to 180. An upper-level low centered northwest of Wake Island at 20N164E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 18N and 21N from 163E to 166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
8:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:50 AM	7:27 PM
Friday	7:39 AM	8:07 PM
Saturday	8:29 AM	8:47 PM
Sunday	9:20 AM	9:29 PM
Monday	10:12 AM	10:12 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

2013 Pacific Judicial Council Conference

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and three other judges and a justice speak before probation and pretrial officers from across the Pacific region on the subject of presentencing reports: "What do judges want?" Accompanying her on the panel are, from left to right, Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge, District Court of Guam; Benjamin Rodriquez, Chief Justice, Pohnpei Supreme Court; Anita A. Sukola, Judge, Guam Superior Court, and Joseph N. Camacho, Judge, CNMI Superior Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Superior Court Judge Anita A. Sukola.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

District Court of Guam Frances Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Pohnpei Supreme Court Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriquez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Parole officers in attendance at the 2013 Pacific Judicial Council Probation and Pretrial Officer Training Conference held on Aug. 6-8, 2013, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

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Business

Can Amazon CEO ship online savvy to Washington Post?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos is revered as one of the brightest minds in corporate America, but even he is still puzzling over how to reverse the financial slide threatening *The Washington Post* and other major U.S. newspapers.

Nevertheless, Bezos is determined to face the challenge, raising hope that his $250 million purchase of *The Washington Post* announced Monday will provide the newspaper industry a template for making the leap from the printed page to digital devices.

"The marriage between the newspaper industry and technology has never been consummated, but it could happen at *The Washington Post* now," said media analyst Ken Doctor of Outsell Inc.

Bezos

Although Bezos bought *The Post* with his own money, most experts believe he is likely to tether the newspaper to Amazon.com Inc.'s products. He might also infuse the newspaper with some of the customer-first concepts that helped turn the Seattle company from an online book store into a multi-dimensional business that sells a multitude of merchandise and runs data centers that power other websites around the world.

"Just having his brain in the room will force people to confront digital in a way they haven't before," predicted Jerry Ceppos, a former newspaper editor who is now dean of mass communications at Louisiana State University.

Bezos, 49, made it clear that he has no magic formula for turning *The Post* around. The newspaper is the anchor of a division that lost $54 million at The Washington Post Co. last year while generating revenue of $582 million—39 percent less than it did in 2005.

"There is no map, and charting a path ahead will not be easy," Bezos wrote in a Monday letter sent to *Post* employees after his surprise acquisition was announced. "We will need to invent, which means we will need to experiment."

According to an Amazon spokesman, Bezos wasn't available to be interviewed Tuesday about his plans for the *Post*.

Bezos' purchase of *The Post* makes him the latest billionaire to funnel some of his money into the ailing newspaper industry.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. CEO Warren Buffett has assembled a portfolio of more than 30 small and medium-sized newspapers while Boston Red Sox owner John Henry recently agreed to pay $70 million for his hometown newspaper, The Boston Globe.

Buffett, renowned for investing in out-of-favor companies, also happens to be one of the largest shareholders in *The Washington Post* Co., which is selling its namesake newspaper to Bezos. Buffett's penchant for going against the grain and focusing on long-term investments are qualities Bezos has embraced with phenomenal success.

Amazon's nearly two-decade history under Bezos' leadership suggests *The Post* is likely to try things that other newspapers steeped in tradition have never dared to attempt.

"Ever since he was a little kid, it got deeply ingrained into Jeff that experimentation is the answer to everything," said Hal Gregerson, who interviewed Bezos for his 2011 book, *The Innovator's DNA*. "Exploring the edges is one of Jeff's counter-intuitive skills. If you go back to when he started Amazon, he was paying attention to something out of the corner of his eye and turned it into something that others didn't see."

It's impossible to predict the bright ideas Bezos might explore, partly because reviving the *Post* would probably take years to pull off. Experts are floating a host of possibilities. Bezos could, for instance, deploy the technology that Amazon uses to recommend books, movies and music to consumers to enable the Post to automatically tailor digital news packages to each reader's interests. He might impose more fees to read the *Post*'s content online. At the same time, he might bundle free subscriptions as part of Amazon's Kindle Fire tablet or for consumers who buy Amazon's "Prime" service for free shipping. He could even include special offers in the printed edition for discounted or free Amazon.com deliveries.

Stores with rich Powerball history seen as lucky

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—When word got out that a southeast Pennsylvania 7-Eleven sold a $1 million Powerball ticket on Saturday, superstitious dreamers began pouring into the store in the hopes that luck would strike twice.

For jackpots as big as Wednesday's Powerball pot, which stood at an estimated $425 million on Tuesday, convenience stores, gas stations and newsstands throughout the 43 states and other places where the game is played are deluged by ticket requests, including many from those who only play for massive jackpots they see as life-changing.

It's not just ticketholders who benefit from a lottery win, but the stores like the one in Langhorne, Pa., which sold Saturday's $1 million ticket. In addition to the bonus money the lottery gives to stores that sell tickets that win big, the retailers receive media coverage that can last for days and best of all, get a boost from becoming known as the place that sold a winning ticket.

"The manager said people were pouring into her store wanting to buy lottery tickets," 7-Eleven spokeswoman Margaret Chabris said, referring to the Langhorne store. "They were of course really excited that one of their customers had won."

At a Casey's General Store in Bondurant, Iowa, everyone knows it's the place where a $202.1 million Powerball jackpot ticket was sold to a local woman in September. Asked what types of questions the store gets when the jackpots get huge, assistant manager Debra Fetters said: "Does lightning strike twice here?"

The estimated $425 million jackpot for Wednesday's drawing would fetch a singer winner a lump-sum payment after taxes of about $244.7 million. Although it wasn't close to the record $590.5 million Powerball jackpot won in May by a Florida woman, jackpots as big as Wednesday's bring in casual players, meaning it could jump considerably before the drawing.

"If it surpasses Wednesday's drawing, we would be in world record territory," said Chuck Strutt, executive director of the Multi-State Lottery Association. The world's highest lottery jackpot was a $656 million Mega Millions jackpot sold in March 2012.

AP

Melina Cholmondeley, right, purchases her Powerball lottery ticket from Harry Singh, left, at Par Mar Liquors in downtown Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013.

The Washington Post: Looking back

After eight decades of family ownership, The Washington Post is being sold for $250 million to Jeff Bezos, the founder and CEO of Amazon.com.

Changing leadership

1877 Newspaper founded by Democrat Stilton Hutchins

1889 Paper sold to Republican Cabinet member Frank Hatton and former Democratic Congressman Beriah Wilkins

1905 John R. McLean, owner of the Cincinnati Enquirer, buys The Post

1933 Paper is sold to Eugene Meyer for $825,000

1947 Company incorporates; Meyer's son-in-law, Philip Graham is named president

1963 Katharine Graham named president after husband's death

1979 Katharine Graham's son Donald become publisher

2008 Katharine Graham's granddaughter Katharine Weymouth named publisher

2013 Bezos buys The Washington Post for $250 million cash

Newspaper milestones

1877 First edition is published Dec. 6 with circulation of 10,000; had four pages and cost three cents a copy

1880 Paper adds Sunday edition; D.C.'s first newspaper to publish seven days a week

1933 Paper sold in public bankruptcy auction

1936 Journalist Felix Morley wins The Post its first Pulitzer Prize

1943 Circulation hits 162,000

1954 The Post purchases rival Washington Times-Herald, increasing circulation to 380,000; paper known as the Washington Post and Times-Herald until 1973

1961 Purchases Newsweek magazine

1971 Company goes public for $26 a share

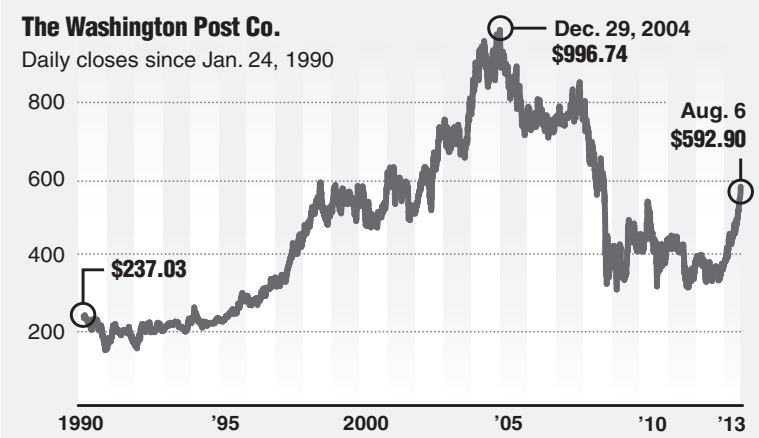
1973 Wins Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate building and ensuing cover-up

1984 The Post Company purchases Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Centers Limited for $45 million

1993 Circulation reaches peak, at 832,332 daily and more than 1 million on Sundays

1996 The Post begins publishing on the Web

2010 Company sells Newsweek magazine



At a glance

Headquarters Washington D.C.

CEO Donald Graham

Products Newspapers, magazines, educational services, television, cable television, electronic media

Employees 17,000

Staff writers 740

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Source: The Washington Post, Yahoo Finance, AP, Reuters
Graphic: Melina Yingling

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,518.74	1,697.37	3,665.77
93.39	9.77	27.18
-0.60%	-0.57%	-0.74%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1156	Hong Kong Dollar	7.757	Philippine Peso	43.64
British Pound	0.652	Indian Rupee	61.3566	Singapore Dollar	1.2674
Canadian Dollar	1.0386	Indonesian Rupiah	10287	South Korean Won	1117.8
Chinese Yuan	6.1266	Japanese Yen	97.1197	Swiss Franc	0.9258
Euro	0.7517	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2548	Taiwan Dollar	29.949
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2654	Thailand Baht	31.4531

Nation

Fort Hood gunman meticulously planned attack

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan fired the last of 146 bullets in his assault on Fort Hood, then walked outside where he met two civilians who asked about the commotion and the laser-sighted pistol in his hand.

Hasan told one person not to worry. He assured the other it was just a training exercise and the gun shot only paint. He let both live.

But moments earlier, dozens of uniformed soldiers received no quarter from Hasan, prosecutors said Tuesday as the Army psychiatrist's long-delayed trial began in a Texas military courtroom.

With his life hanging in the balance, Hasan made little effort to defend himself. Acting as his own attorney, he calmly told the jury that he killed 13 people and wounded 32 others in the 2009 attack.

"The evidence will clearly show that I am the shooter," he said in an opening statement that lasted little more than a minute The evidence, he added, would "only show one side."

His only utterance of regret was an acknowledgement that he was among "imperfect Muslims trying to establish the perfect religion."

"I apologize for any mistakes I made in this endeavor," said Hasan, an American-born 42-year-old who was paralyzed after being shot by officers responding to the attack. He spoke from a wheelchair, wearing green Army fatigues and a gray, bushy beard.

Hasan planned the assault for months, prosecutor Col. Steve Henricks said, describing how the defendant stockpiled bullets, practiced at a shooting range and bought an extender kit so his pistol could hold more bullets.

AP

In this courtroom sketch, Staff Sgt. Alonzo Lunsford, rear right, testifies in front of military prosecutor Lt. Col. Steve Henricks, center, with presiding judge Col. Tara Osborn looking on during the court-martial of Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Fort Hood, Texas.

If convicted, Hasan could get the death penalty. No American soldier has been executed since 1961, and military prosecutors showed that they would take no chance of fumbling details that could jeopardize any conviction.

They described a calculating Hasan, armed with two handguns and carrying paper towels in his pants pockets to conceal the sounds of rattling ammunition as he walked through a deployment-readiness center on the sprawling base.

"He came to believe he had a jihad duty to murder his fellow soldiers," Henricks said, adding that Hasan had researched Taliban leaders' call to wage holy war.

The government has also said Hasan sent more than a dozen emails starting in December 2008 to Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical U.S.-born Islamic cleric killed by a drone strike in Yemen in 2011.

The shooting happened about three weeks after Hasan learned he would be deploying to Afghanistan. Upon getting the orders that he was going overseas, Hasan told a base doctor that, "They've got another thing coming if they think they are going to deploy me," Henricks said.

Manning's max possible sentence cut to 90 years

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP)—Army Pfc. Bradley Manning's possible sentence for disclosing classified information through WikiLeaks was trimmed from 136 years to 90 years Tuesday by a military judge who said some of his offenses were closely related.

The ruling was largely a victory for defense attorneys, who had argued for an 80-year maximum. Still, the 25-year-old soldier could spend most, if not all, of his remaining years inside a prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The sentencing phase of Manning's court-martial is in its second week. He was convicted last week of 20 counts, including six Espionage Act violations, five federal theft counts and a federal computer fraud charge for leaking more than 700,000 documents from a classified government computer network while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq in 2010.

Manning says he leaked the material to expose wrongdoing by the military and U.S. diplomats. He contends he selectively leaked material that wouldn't harm service members or national security.

At his sentencing hearing, prosecutors are presenting evidence that the leaks damaged U.S. interests. They have focused mainly on the impact of more than 250,000 State Department diplomatic cables that WikiLeaks began publishing in November 2010.

Maj. Gen. Michael Nagata testified for the prosecution Tuesday that the leaked cables had an impact on U.S. military operations in Pakistan, where he was deputy commander of a defense office within the U.S. embassy in Islamabad. Nagata saved the details of the impact for a closed court session to protect classified information.

The leaked cables publicly revealed a closer U.S.-Pakistani military relationship than Pakistan had publicly acknowledged. The cables also disclosed U.S. concerns Islamist militants could get their hands on Pakistani nuclear material to make an illicit weapon. One leaked cable revealed that instructors at a prestigious Pakistani defense institution were giving anti-American lessons to senior officers.

U.S. officials said in 2010 the leaked cables may have endangered operatives inside Afghanistan and Pakistan who had worked against the Taliban or al-Qaida. However, Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said at the time that cables implying some Pakistani intelligence officials were aiding insurgents were "clearly out of step with where this relationship is now, and has been heading for some time."

Prosecutors also have presented evidence the disclosures damaged America's military and diplomatic relationships with some foreign governments and endangered the lives of foreign citizens who had confided in diplomats.

President George W. Bush has stent procedure

Former President George W. Bush successfully underwent a heart procedure in Dallas on Tuesday after doctors discovered a blockage in an artery during his annual physical, Bush spokesman Freddy Ford said.

"At the recommendation of his doctors, President Bush agreed to have a stent placed to open the blockage," Ford said. "The procedure was performed successfully this morning, without complication, at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital."

Bush, 67, was expected to be discharged Wednesday and resume his normal schedule the following day.

The blockage was discovered Monday during Bush's physical at the Cooper Clinic in Dallas, where the nation's 43rd president lives.

Bush was described as being "in high spirits" and eager to return home.

"He is grateful to the skilled medical professionals who have cared for him," Ford said. "He thanks his family, friends, and fellow citizens for their prayers and well wishes. And he encourages us all to get our regular check-ups."

Stents are mesh scaffoldings that prop open arteries typically clogged by years of quiet cholesterol buildup. About half a million people have stents inserted in the U.S. each year, generally involving an overnight stay in the hospital.

Doctors usually guide a narrow tube through a blood vessel near the groin up to the heart, inflate a tiny balloon to flatten the blockage and insert the stent. Sometimes, they insert it through an artery in the wrist to lower the risk of bleeding.

Doctors often recommend first trying medication to treat a clogged artery. More severe blockages, particularly in several arteries, may require bypass surgery. Arteries can reclog, so patients often are put on heart-friendly diets or medication.

White House press secretary Jay Carney told reporters that President Barack Obama was briefed on Bush's procedure and "obviously wishes him well." He didn't believe Obama and Bush had spoken, Carney said.

Bush is known as a fitness buff. In 1993, before he was elected Texas governor, he ran the Houston Marathon in a respectable 3:44.52.

While in the White House, he frequently used a quarter-mile jogging path on the south lawn. Bush was known to run about three miles four days a week, and cross-trained with swimming, free weights and an elliptical trainer. When doctors found his knees were getting damaged, he turned to mountain biking.

Since leaving office, Bush hosts and leads an annual 100-kilometer mountain bike ride with about 20 wounded military veterans.

ACROSS THE NATION

First charges filed in Benghazi attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department has filed the first criminal charges in the deadly attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, two U.S. officials said Tuesday. The officials confirmed that a sealed complaint was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington against an unspecified number of individuals in the September 2012 attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. One official said those charged included Ahmed Abu Khattala, the head of a Libyan militia. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss a sealed filing. The New York Times reported late Tuesday that Khattala had been charged with murder and that he has said in an interview that he is innocent. At least two other foreigners have been charged in the attacks, the newspaper said.

Dad of missing kids asks suspect to turn self in

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The husband of a woman whose body was found in a burned house near the U.S.-Mexico border pleaded Tuesday with his friend who is suspected of killing his wife and abducting one or both of their children to turn himself in. "Jim, I can't fathom what you were thinking," said Brett Anderson, addressing his short statement at a news conference to his friend James Lee DiMaggio, the subject of a growing manhunt. "The damage is done." Anderson also pleaded with his missing daughter, 16-year-old Hannah Anderson, who authorities said was in grave danger, to run away from DiMaggio if she got the chance. Anderson did not make reference to his 8-year-old son Ethan, who was also missing. The remains of a child were found in the burned house with the children's mother, 42-year-old Christina Anderson.

Agent drank 4 beers night of Waikiki shooting

HONOLULU (AP)—A State Department special agent accused of murder after he shot and killed a man at a Waikiki McDonald's in 2011 said he displayed his credentials and identified himself as a law enforcement officer in an attempt to defuse a hostile situation from escalating. Federal agent Christopher Deedy began testifying in his own defense Tuesday, one month into his trial in the killing of Kollin Elderts of Kailua. He said Elderts was aggressively bothering a customer. "The way he was acting, I thought there was a possibility he was under the influence of alcohol," Deedy said of Elderts.

Lawyer: Deadly boardwalk crash 'horrible accident'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawyer for a Colorado man charged Tuesday with murder and assault for allegedly driving his car through a weekend throng on the Venice Beach boardwalk said it was an accident that has left his client devastated. "I don't believe he intentionally tried to hit anybody," said public defender Philip Dube, who is representing Nathan Louis Campbell, 38. "He's profoundly sad, he is profoundly depressed, that he has potentially ended somebody's life," Dube said outside the courthouse, after Campbell entered a not guilty plea. "I think this was a horrible accident." A felony complaint outlined 34 counts against Campbell, saying he acted willfully.

Asia

Attacks kill 28 people across Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb blast that appeared to be targeting a provincial government minister killed 11 people before dawn Wednesday at a soccer field in southern Pakistan, the latest in a series of attacks that left 28 people dead across the country, officials said.

The bomb planted next to the field in the city of Karachi was hidden in a motorcycle, said senior police official Razaq Dharejo. The bomb went off near the vehicle of provincial minister Javed Naghori, who was leaving after witnessing a late-night match between local teams in the Lyari neighborhood, said Dharejo. Naghori escaped unharmed.

The blast killed 11 people and wounded 24 others, said provincial Information Minister Sharjeel Memon. Many of the dead and wounded were young boys standing near the soccer field when the bomb exploded.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Karachi is Pakistan's largest city and has a long history of political, criminal and religious violence.

On Tuesday, police found the bodies of 13 people who were pulled off a convoy of buses in southwest Baluchistan province, shot dead and dumped in a ravine, officials said. A paramilitary soldier was also killed.

The motive for the attack late Monday night in Baluchistan province was unclear since no one claimed responsibility. But suspicion may fall on separatists who have been waging a low-level insurgency in southwest Baluchistan province.

The buses were headed to central Punjab province, and the separatists have a history of attacking Punjabis whom they view as outsiders encroaching on their independence. The province is also home to Islamic militants who have carried out past attacks, especially on minority Shiite Muslims.

Paramilitary troops protect bus convoys moving through Baluchistan. But gunmen distracted the troops by shooting at an oil tanker, said Kashif Nabi, a local government administrator.

Heat wave brings 'dead' man back to life

BEIJING (AP)—Having the dead guy jump up for a drink probably wasn't part of the script.

A staged protest claiming that city officials had beaten a sidewalk vendor to death in central China went awry when the man playing dead under a white sheet was overcome by the region's heat wave and sprang up to quaff a bottle of water, state media reported Monday.

"It's too hot. I can't bear it anymore," the man was quoted as saying by state-run Xinhua News Agency.

More than 10 men had gathered Saturday with a gurney that purportedly carried the vendor's body, covered by a sheet, in the Hubei provincial capital Wuhan. They were demanding tens of thousands of yuan (thousands of dollars) in compensation for the alleged death, Xinhua said.

The incident drew 300 onlookers and about 80 police officers.

It was not immediately clear how the group intended to press their claims without submitting the body for an investigation and autopsy. In any case, the game was up when the man—as Xinhua reported—jumped up after two hours under the sheet.

The man on the gurney was identified only by his surname Han, and he has been detained for disturbing social order, said a district administration official in Wuhan contacted by telephone. She refused to give her name.

Han told the police that urban management workers—known as "chengguan"—clashed with the group of vendors earlier Saturday after telling them that their drinks stands were blocking traffic, Xinhua said.

Many members of China's public have long resented the heavy-handed tactics of the country's chengguan. Though they have no legal authority to use force, they are often accused of beating people who commit minor infractions in shows of power that have fueled social tension, triggered riots and aggravated public discontent against the government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Radioactive water may overflow at Japan plant

TOKYO (AP)—The operator of Japan's wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant is struggling to stop contaminated underground water from leaking into the sea. Tokyo Electric Power Co. said some of the water is seeping over or around an underground barrier it created by injecting chemicals into the soil that solidified into a wall. The latest problem involves underground water which has built up over the last month since the company began creating the chemical walls to stop leaks after it detected radiation spikes in water samples in May.

India says Pakistani soldiers kill 5 Indian troops

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—India's army says five of its soldiers were killed and another wounded when Pakistani troops fired at a patrol near the cease-fire line in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir on Tuesday. The incident could threaten recent overtures aimed at resuming peace talks between the nuclear-armed rivals. The military called the attack a "gross violation" of a 2003 cease-fire in Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Lt. Col. Rajesh Kalia, an Indian army spokesman, said about 20 "heavily armed terrorists along with soldiers" of the Pakistan army ambushed an Indian army patrol in the Poonch sector, 180 kilometers (110 miles) southwest of Srinagar, the main city in the Himalayan region.

Roadside bomb wounds 7 troops in south Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine military official says a roadside bomb has exploded and wounded seven soldiers aboard a passing army truck in the latest of a series of explosions that has set off a security alarm in the country's volatile south. Muslim guerrillas belonging to the rebel faction the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, claimed responsibility for the attack Wednesday near Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao province, where army troops have engaged the insurgents in recent clashes. Regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso says another bomb made from a mortar round went off before dawn in Midsayap town in North Cotabato province near Maguindanao, damaging some stores but causing no injuries. On Monday, a powerful bomb rigged to a van killed eight people and wounded 31 others in Cotabato city, also near Maguindanao.

China fines 2 milk suppliers in price-fixing probe

BEIJING (AP)—Two suppliers of infant formula, Mead Johnson and Hong Kong's Biostime, say Chinese authorities have imposed multimillion-dollar fines on them in a price-fixing probe. Mead Johnson Nutrition Co. said Wednesday its China unit was fined 203.8 million yuan ($33 million). Biostime International Holdings Ltd. said its local arm was fined 162.9 million yuan ($26.3 million). Chinese authorities said earlier they were investigating possible price-fixing by foreign milk suppliers that raised costs for Chinese consumers. Suppliers, including Nestle SA and FrieslandCampina NV, announced price cuts after the investigation was launched.

World

Car bomb near Damascus kills 18

BEIRUT (AP)—A car bomb in a pro-regime district near the Syrian capital killed at least 18 people on Tuesday while rebels captured a major air base in the north and swept through a string of villages in the heartland of President Bashar Assad's minority Alawite sect in the west.

The push by the opposition fighters is shaping up to be one of their strongest campaigns against government forces, which have recently captured significant territory in central Syria.

The powerful car bomb struck in Damascus' suburb of Jaramana late on Tuesday, killing 18 and setting several buildings and many cars on fire, the state-run SANA news agency said. Syrian state TV footage showed firefighters battling the blaze as residents stared in disbelief amid debris and mangled cars.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Rebels fighting to oust Assad have frequently targeted areas where regime supporters and members of the government and security forces live. Rebel groups linked to al-Qaida have claimed some of the deadliest car bombings and suicide attacks in the capital and beyond.

In the north, rebels captured a major air base, depriving Assad's forces of a main post near the border with Turkey and opening up a key road for supplies for their fighters from the neighboring country.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said members of the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant led the battle for the Mannagh helicopter base.

After months of trying to take it, the rebels launched an all-out offensive on Monday, when a Saudi suicide attacker blew up his vehicle outside the command center, the Observatory said. They captured the sprawling compound before dawn Tuesday, according to another activist group, the Aleppo Media Center.

State media denied the base had fallen, and SANA said the nation's "armed forces are confronting terrorists with great courage" inside the base. Assad's regime refers to opposition fighters as terrorists, claiming they are part of conspiracy by the West and Gulf Arab countries like Saudi Arabia to destroy Syria.

Python's strangling of 2 boys in Canada probed

TORONTO (AP)—A 100-pound (45-kilogram) python blamed in the strangling deaths of two Canadian boys apparently escaped from its enclosure, slithered through a ventilation system and fell through the ceiling into the room where the young brothers were sleeping, authorities said Tuesday.

A snake expert said it was possible that the python was spooked and simply clung to whatever it landed on. Police are treating the deaths in Campbellton, New Brunswick, as a criminal investigation.

Autopsies on Noah Barthe, 4 and his brother Connor Barthe, 6, were performed Tuesday.

The brothers had been visiting the apartment of a friend whose father owned an exotic pet store on the floor below, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Alain Tremblay said at a news conference in Campbellton. Tremblay said the African rock python was being kept inside the second floor apartment, not inside the pet store as authorities had previously stated.

AP

A memorial sits outside the Reptile Ocean exotic pet store in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Canada, on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013.

Steve Benteau, a spokesman for the provincial Natural Resources Department, said no permit was issued for an African rock python and provincial authorities weren't aware it was being kept at the apartment. The department said the snake is generally only permitted in accredited zoos, unless there is a special permit.

Tremblay said the snake was housed in a large glass enclosure that reached the ceiling of the apartment and escaped through a small hole in the ceiling connected to the ventilation system. He said the snake made its way through the ventilation system and moved toward the living room, where the boys were sleeping. The pipe collapsed and the snake fell.

The friend of the boys was sleeping in another room and was unharmed.

The pet store owner, Jean-Claude Savoie, told the Global News television station that he didn't hear a sound and discovered the "horrific scene" when he went into his living room on Monday morning.

WORLD BRIEFS

Wildfire rages overnight near Athens

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek authorities announced a series of emergency measures Tuesday to prevent the outbreak of wildfires during a week of high winds and warm temperatures, after firefighters and soldiers spent the night battling a large blaze north of the country's capital. Public Order Minister Nikos Dendias said the fire risk was "exceptionally critical" for the rest of the week due to strong winds and dry conditions. With hot, dry summers and seasonal winds that often reach gale force in July and August, Greece has seen swathes of its forest and agricultural land ravaged by fires over the years.

Egypt bristles as US pols urge freeing prisoners

CAIRO (AP)—Two U.S. Senators came to Egypt Tuesday with a message for the country's new military-backed leaders: Release Islamist figures as a gesture to the Muslim Brotherhood or risk making "a huge mistake." The message from Republican Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham met with a sharp response, denounced by interim President Adly Mansour in a brief statement as "unacceptable interference in internal politics." The new leadership, emboldened by mass demonstrations of support, showed no sign of willingness to release Muslim Brotherhood figures whom McCain called "political prisoners" and whom the government plans to prosecute for allegedly inciting violence.

Environment

2012 one of 10 warmest years on record, report says

By NEELA BANERJEE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Last year was one of the 10 hottest since global average temperatures have been recorded, according to an assessment of worldwide climate trends by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The State of the Climate in 2012," released Tuesday, paints a sobering portrait of vast swaths of the planet transformed by rising temperatures. Arctic sea ice reached record lows during the summer thaw. In Greenland, about 97 percent of its ice sheet melted in the summer, far greater than in years past.

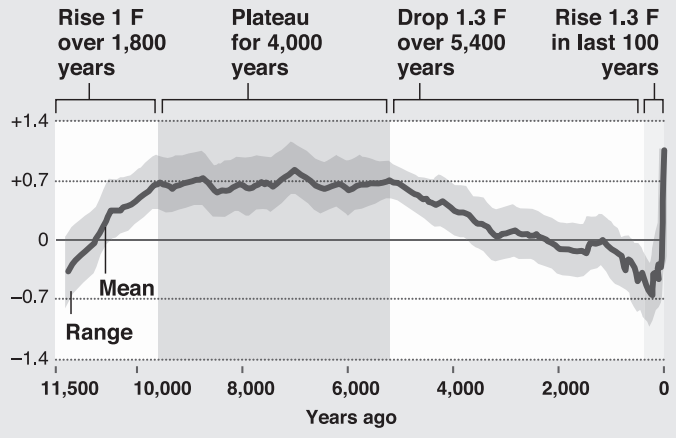
Greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise. In early May, the ratio of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere surpassed 400 parts per million in an average daily reading at Hawaii's Mauna Loa Observatory, thought to be the highest concentration in millions of years.

The report is a like "an annual check-up for the planet," said Kathryn Sullivan, undersecretary of Commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA's acting administrator. It documents "remarkable changes" in critical areas like Arctic ice, sea levels and greenhouse gas emissions, she said.

On the rise

Global temperatures are higher now than they have been for 75 percent of the 11,300 years since the end of the last glacial period, according to a report in Science. Temperature variations and projections indicated are relative to the average global temperature from 1961 to 1990.

Change in global temperatures (in degrees Fahrenheit)



Source: Science Graphic: Brady MacDonald, Los Angeles Times © 2013 MCT

Sullivan said she hoped the report would help businesses, communities, farmers and governments gauge their vulnerability to climate change and better prepare.

"Many of the planning models for infrastructure rely on the future being statistically a lot like the past, and certainly the data should lead one to question if that will be so," Sullivan said. "Extreme weather events are more frequent and more intense than what we have presumed."

The NOAA report arrives as climate change contrarians point out that the last 15 years have shown a leveling off of global atmospheric temperatures. But NOAA researchers cautioned against looking at a short time period and at only one indicator.

Over the last 150 years, the annual average global temperature has risen sharply, and is now about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than in pre-industrial times, NOAA said. Nine of the 10 hottest years have been recorded since the late 1990s, with 2012 ranking number 8 or 9, depending on the methodology. In January, NOAA reported that 2012 was the hottest year on record for the lower 48 states.

Heat-trapping greenhouse gases emitted by the burning of fossil fuels are the primary cause of higher global temperatures.

The NOAA report underscored the effect that oceans have on temperatures. Oceans store much of the planet's heat, but ocean heat storage is at near-record levels, the report said, and increases were detected even in the ocean's depths.

But as oceans trap heat from a warming planet, they change. Surface ocean temperatures in 2012 were among the 11 warmest on record. In a study recently published in the journal Nature and Climate Change, Australian researchers reported that warmer seas have led to profound changes in marine life, including more species moving to the relatively cooler water of the poles.

Sea levels reached a record high in 2012, climbing 1.3 inches per decade since satellite tracking of sea levels began in 1993, NOAA said.

The Arctic also underwent "unprecedented change" and the warming trends there broke several records, the report said. For instance, the sea ice over the Arctic "shrank to its smallest 'summer minimum' extent since satellite records began 34 years ago."

Because the ice caps act as the planet's "air conditioners," scientists say, less Arctic ice means less ability to reduce heat.

Even average measurements that indicated normal trends sometimes masked extreme swings in regional weather, NOAA said. For instance, global average rainfall was "unremarkable," but much of the U.S. experienced extreme drought last year, while the Sahel region of Africa had record rains and flooding during its wet season. This year, nearly 87 percent of the American West is in drought.

"The latest 'State of the Climate' report shows that the Earth continues to heat, the atmosphere is heating, the worldwide ice loss continues, and other symptoms of our warming planet march forward, without cessation," said John P. Abraham, professor of thermal sciences at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. "A lot of people claim that global warming has magically stopped, but the facts, and the Earth, continue to disagree."

Dolphins display memory better than elephants

WASHINGTON (AP)—Forget elephants. Dolphins can swim circles around them when it comes to long-term memory.

Scientists in a new study repeatedly found that dolphins can remember the distinctive whistle—which acts as a name to the marine mammal—of another dolphin they haven't seen in two decades.

Bailey the dolphin hadn't seen another dolphin named Allie since the two juveniles lived together at the Dolphin Connection in the Florida Keys. Allie ended up in a Chicago area zoo, while Bailey got moved to Bermuda. Yet 20 1/2 years later, Bailey recognized and reacted to Allie's distinctive signal when University of Chicago researcher Jason Bruck played it on a speaker.

Other dolphins had similar steel-trap memories. And it's not just for relatives. It's non-kin too.

"It's mind-blowing; I know I can't do it," Bruck says. "Dolphins in fact have the longest social memory in all of the animal kingdom because their signature whistle doesn't change."

AP

This Oct. 3, 2012, photo provided by the Brookfield Zoo, shows the dolphin Allie at the zoo in Brookfield, Ill. Dolphins can swim circles around them elephants when it comes to long term memory.

Studies have shown that monkeys can remember things for about four years and anecdotes have elephants remembering for about 10, Bruck says in a paper published Wednesday by Proceedings of the Royal Society B. But remembering just a sound—no visuals were included—boggles even human minds, he says.

For Bruck, 33, it's as if a long-lost classmate from middle school called him up and Bruck would be able to figure out who it was just from the voice.

Faces, yes, yearbook pictures, definitely, but voices that change with time, no way, Bruck says.

"We're not as acoustically as adept as dolphins," Bruck says. It helps that dolphins have massive parts of the brain that are geared toward sound.

Bruck thinks dolphins have the incredible memory because it could help them when they approach new dolphins on a potential group hunt. And even more likely it probably allows dolphins to avoid others that had mistreated them in the past or dominated them, he says.

Researchers find gray wolf-grizzly bear link in Yellowstone

By BETTINA BOXALL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Reintroduction of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park has boosted an important food source for the threatened grizzly bear, researchers have found in an example of how the return of a top predator can have far-reaching ecological effects.

A study published this week in the Journal of Animal Ecology is essentially a tale of who eats what.

When wolves returned to the park in 1995 after a 70-year absence, they preyed on elk herds that browsed on trees and shrubs.

The elk population, which had exploded without the wolves, dropped. The over-browsed plants began to rebound, including berry-producing shrubs that provide nutritious summer meals for grizzlies when they are fattening up for hibernation.

"The grizzly bear uses some of the same plants that the prey of the wolf uses," said William Ripple, an Oregon State University professor of forest ecosystems and lead author of the study. "The reintroduction of one top predator is potentially affecting another top predator through this food web."

Ripple and his fellow researchers at OSU and Washington State University compared the frequency of fruit found in grizzly bear scat to elk numbers before and after the wolf reintroduction. Over a 19-year period, they found that the average proportion of fruit in grizzly scat rose significantly after wolves returned to Yellowstone and the elk population fell.

The scientists examined and rejected other possible explanations for the smaller, pre-wolf proportion of fruit in grizzly diets, such as climate influences or the operation of open-pit garbage dumps that served as bear mess halls before the last one was closed in 1970.

5th Year Death Anniversary

In loving memory of

†MANUEL MIYASAKI BABAUTA

We, the family, humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Holy Rosary will be said at 7:00PM from August 08 – 15, 2013 at the residence of Larry & Margaret Tenorio, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

On the Last day August 16, 2013 Mass will be offered at 6:00AM at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan. Holy Rosary will be said at 5:30PM at the residence of Larry & Margaret Tenorio in Lower Navy Hill.

Thank you for your prayers

Children of †Manuel M. & †Ana Boki Babauta

Life & Style

PBS doc looks at Journey's lead singer search

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The resurgence of Journey through the band's discovery of a new lead singer via the Internet gets a close-up look on a new PBS documentary.

"Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey" airs on Sept. 30 as part of the network's Independent Lens series.

It's the story of how Journey guitarist Neal Schon found a replacement for front man Steve Perry by searching YouTube videos, and the band's eventual integration of Arnel Pineda into its lineup.

It wasn't easy.

Some longtime Journey fans were initially reluctant to accept the presence of Pineda, a 45-year-old Filipino singer, into an American band that had been dominated by Perry's presence and soaring vocals.

"We still have fans of our music showing up in the last year that don't know Steve Perry isn't in the band," keyboardist Jonathan Cain told the Television Critics Association on Tuesday.

Perry was replaced for the first time in 1998.

Cain recalled doing a concert in a U.S. city that he declined to name after Pineda joined Journey in December 2007.

"It took them 30 minutes to finally wrap their heads around the fact that this guy could sing his butt off," he said. "At the end of the show, they were all applauding Arnel's efforts."

Pineda perfected his English by reading English-language newspapers and using a dictionary to look up words he didn't understand. He wasn't troubled by hardcore Perry fans that compared the two singers.

"I never had a slight feeling of intimidation," he said. "I'm not even trying to compete with Mr. Perry. I'm just trying to help out. It didn't affect me at all."

Pineda was initially found by Schon singing Journey covers in YouTube videos. The band brought him to San Francisco to audition.

"I found some good guys, but I didn't feel they had the strength and the power in their pipes to carry themselves over the power of our music," Schon said. "Arnel, I said, 'This guy is the real deal.'"

Cain credited Pineda for stoking new interest in the group famous for such hits as "Don't Stop Believin'," "Faithfully" and "Open Arms."

"He has his own style that he's developed," he said. "I watched this guy come from Manila as a club singer and become a rock star. We have a whole new fan base. Filipino nation is showing up at our shows."

Journey's older music continues to find new life on Broadway, television, movies and at sporting events.

"We're finding young school kids singing these songs and they weren't raised with these songs," Schon said. "We still obviously love doing it. To rebuild this band from nothing 10 years ago was quite a feat."

Schon and Pineda teamed to perform "Stay Awhile" as bassist Ross Valory and manager John Baruck looked on during the TCA session. Drummer Deen Castronovo didn't attend because of a scheduling conflict.

The band resumes its current tour on Aug. 15 in Kinder, La., and will play two sold-out dates in Chicago later this month.

AP

Arnel Pineda, left, and Neal Schon of the rock band Journey take part in a panel discussion on the Independent Lens documentary "Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey," at the PBS Summer 2013 TCA press tour at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Aniston, Sudeikis have comedic chemistry together

NEW YORK (AP)—It doesn't take much to get Jennifer Aniston and Jason Sudeikis going on a good comedic riff. Just the mention of some random subject and the two engage in banter like they're reading from some comedic script.

One inspiration: Aniston's enduring but long-gone series, "Friends."

Aniston: "'Friends' is off the air."

Sudeikis: "I know, but I just did an episode of it."

Aniston: "That's strange."

Sudeikis: "I play Monica's uh ... "

Aniston: "Brother? Other brother?"

Sudeikis: "Stepbrother. We kiss. It's taken a dark turn. Courteney Cox does not play Monica in this one."

Aniston: "No! We've all been replaced?"

Sudeikis: "It's like 'The Carrie Diaries.' Everyone plays you guys in high school."

Aniston and Sudeikis, who shared the screen in 2011's "Horrible Bosses," team up again for "We're the Millers," which has Sudeikis' character assemble a motley crew to play his family in order to complete a drug deal. It opens nationwide on Wednesday.

Like "Horrible Bosses," the new film—in which Aniston plays a stripper posing as a mom—is a dark, subversive comedy. Aniston said what makes it appealing is that it's fun.

"It's highbrow, but not too highbrow. It's based in reality, but obviously, a crazy reality," the 44-year-old actress said in a recent interview. "I think it's fun to have a zany group of people in these situations. And it feels different. That merging of pot smuggling, stripping, dealing, children, fake family, all of that."

Much of the focus of "We're the Millers" has been Aniston's decision to strip (she's not fully nude) in the movie, and her impressive, toned figure. Aniston, a fitness buff, said she worked out every morning to prepare for her big moment on-screen. She said much of that talk comes across as a backhanded compliment.

"When I was little, my mom in her forties looked like a mom in her forties. We have sort of erased numbers. I have, at least. I think we're also very health-aware," she said. "Nutritionally, we are very aware of what's good for us and what's not good for us, way more than a couple of generations ago. So I think we are learning how to keep our bodies fit and our minds fit and (keep) everything up and running."

AP

In this July 27, 2013 file photo, actor Jason Sudeikis, left, and actress Jennifer Aniston pose for a portrait as they promote the movie "We're the Millers" in New York. The film opens nationwide on Wednesday, Aug. 7.

Obama 'disappointed' in Russia's Snowden decision

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—President Barack Obama said Tuesday that he was "disappointed" that Russia granted temporary asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, defying Obama administration demands that the former government contractor be sent back to the U.S. to face espionage charges.

Obama, in his first comments about Snowden since Russia's decision last week, said the move reflected the "underlying challenges" he faces in dealing with Moscow.

"There have been times where they slip back into Cold War thinking and a Cold War mentality," Obama said during an interview with NBC's "The Tonight Show."

Snowden, an ex-NSA systems analyst, is accused of leaking details about highly-secretive government surveillance programs. He spent several weeks in the transit zone of a Moscow airport before being granted asylum for a year.

Russia's decision has pushed the White House to reconsider Obama's plans to travel to Russia in September. He said he would attend an international summit in St. Petersburg, saying it was important for the U.S. to be represented at talks among global economic powers. But he did not say whether he planned to attend separate meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

The White House has said it was evaluating the "utility" of the Putin meetings.

Obama also criticized a new Russian law cracking down on gay rights activism, saying he has "no patience for countries that try to treat gays and lesbians and transgendered persons in ways that intimidate them or are harmful to them."

Russia has said it will enforce the law when it hosts the 2014 Winter Olympics. Asked whether the law would impact the games, Obama said he believes Putin and Russia have "a big stake in making sure the Olympics work."

"I think they understand that for most of the countries that participate in the Olympics, we wouldn't tolerate gays and lesbians being treated differently," he said.

In a wide-ranging interview, to be broadcast Tuesday, Obama also lauded two of his former political rivals: former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Once bitter adversaries, Obama and McCain have deepened their ties in recent months. The Republican senator helped usher a White House-backed overhaul of U.S. immigration law through the Senate and most recently negotiated a plan to clear the way for votes on several stalled Obama nominees.

The president said that while he and McCain still have significant policy differences, the Republican senator is "a person of integrity." But Obama said jokingly that it's probably not good for McCain if the Democratic president compliments him on television.

Obama also discussed his recent lunch with Clinton, his rival in the 2008 Democratic primaries. Clinton, who left the State Department earlier this year, had a post-administration "glow," Obama said.

But he sidestepped questions about whether she was measuring the curtains in the White House for a possible 2016 presidential bid.

"Keep in mind," Obama said, "she's been there before."

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THE WOLVERINE 3D [CC] (PG-13) (415 PM)
RED 2 [CC] (PG-13) (405 PM) 705 PM
THE CONJURING [CC] (R) (420 PM) 720 PM
PACIFIC RIM [CC] (PG-13) (425 PM)
PACIFIC RIM 3D [CC] (PG-13) 725 PM
DESPICABLE ME 2 [CC] (PG) (500 PM)
DESPICABLE ME 2 3D [CC] (PG) (235 PM) 730 PM

Times For 08/08 © 2013www.REGmovies.com

In 'Elysium,' a cosmic divide for rich and poor

NEW YORK (AP)—In the desert of big-budget summer moviegoing comes, like fresh water, Neill Blomkamp's "Elysium," a dystopic science-fiction thriller bristling with more ideas than all this year's superheros and action films combined.

Like Blomkamp's first and previous film, the South African alien apartheid allegory "District 9," "Elysium" is a rogue burst of originality—a futuristic popcorn adventure loaded with contemporary themes of wealth discrepancy, immigration and health care. Blomkamp, a 33-year-old South African native with a background in digital effects and a head for sociopolitical tumult, has emerged as a rare thing in today's movies: a maker of science fiction with soul.

"What's somehow gone away from science fiction is that it's meant to represent ideas," says Blomkamp. "It's meant to be this looking glass through which you can look at society a different way."

Whereas most science fiction today is all sleekness and impressive spaceships, metaphor—not exactly the stuff of movie posters—comes first for Blomkamp, who sees his film in the tradition of Fritz Lang's similarly allegorical "Metropolis." Set in the year 2154, "Elysium" finds the Earth a dilapidated slum, with the wealthy living in an orbital space station, a kind of floating Beverly Hills hamster wheel modeled after Syd Mead's Stanford torus design for a space habitat.

Elysium, guarded fiercely by a defense secretary played by Jodie Foster, looms in the sky as an unreachable oasis of high-quality living and limitless health care. (Every home is equipped with beds that immediately cure illness.) The First and Third World divide has gone cosmic.

In dusty Los Angles (shot in a Mexico City slum), Matt Damon stars as a reformed car thief working in a giant factory in grueling

AP

This film image released by Columbia Pictures-Sony shows director Neill Blomkamp, left, and Matt Damon on the set of "Elysium."

conditions, overseen by an infinitely more rewarded CEO (William Fichtner). When a radiation mishap gives Damon's character days to live, he endeavors to reach Elysium at all costs.

"I sit there a lot of the time wrestling with balancing metaphor and also balancing entertainment," says Blomkamp. "Anything I do creatively comes from a place of instinct. I don't wake up one morning and say, `I want to make a film about wealth discrepancy.' It seems to happen organically."

Los Angeles holds particular fascination for Blomkamp, who lives with his wife and frequent writing partner Terri Tatchell in Vancouver. He considers its segregated sprawl, close to the border of Mexico "a milder version" of his hometown of Johannesburg. But his relationship with Hollywood is considerably more at odds.

"I would be as far from the film industry as physically possible as I could," he says.

Blomkamp first caught Hollywood's eye for his commercial work and shorts, including "Alive in Joburg," which he would later expand into "District 9." Peter Jackson and his wife and producing partner Fran Walsh were particularly impressed by Blomkamp and helped get him hired to helm a big-budget adaption of the video game "Halo."

But after months of development, the film was shut down. It was an early lesson for Blomkamp on the loss of control in directing studio films based on material not his own. "I count my lucky stars every day," he says now of the "Halo" fallout, since it led to Jackson and Walsh's suggestion that he turn "Alive in Joburg"—a documentary-styled story about aliens marooned in Johannesburg—into a feature.

Famously made for just around $30 million, "District 9" had the look of a much more expensive film, boasting far more political subtext than often makes it into the multiplexes. It starred Blomkamp's longtime friend Sharlto Copley (the two first met when a teenage Blomkamp began doing 3D animation work for Copley's production company) as an Afrikaner bureaucrat who mutates into one of the interned aliens. Parts of it were shot in Soweto.

"District 9," which received four Oscar nominations including best picture (a rarity for a genre film), made Blomkamp a phenom. In an earlier Time magazine issue on the 100 most influential people, director Ridley Scott wrote: "From time to time, there are people in the film industry who appear on the horizon with a unique vision. South African director Neill Blomkamp is one of those rare people."

The success of the film (it made $210.8 million worldwide) led to numerous studio offers of major franchise movies, including entreaties regarding "Star Wars" and "Star Trek."

"I get offered those kind of films less and less now because I just seem to be saying `no' so much," says Blomkamp. "What I want to do for the next few films is find exactly my own voice."

"If I get into other people's ideas without fully fleshing that out, there's some of that that I could lose," he adds. "It can become impersonal if you're not careful."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

De Niro, Streep to reunite for 'The Good House'

NEW YORK (AP)—More than a dozen years after their last film together, Robert De Niro and Meryl Streep will reunite on screen for an adaption of Ann Leary's darkly comic small town New England tale, "The Good House." De Niro and Streep memorably starred together in 1978's "The Deer Hunter," as well as 1984's "Falling in Love" and 1996's "Marvin's Room." FilmNation Entertainment announced Tuesday that it acquired the rights for "The Good House" from Jane Rosenthal, De Niro's producing partner. She will produce the film for Tribeca Productions along with FilmNation's Aaron Ryder and Karen Lunder. Writing the script will be Michael Cunningham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Hours." It will be the fourth film together for the 69-year-old De Niro and the 64-year-old Streep.

Police: Usher's son nearly drowns in Atlanta pool

ATLANTA (AP)—The son of Grammy-winning R&B singer Usher nearly drowned in an Atlanta pool and was in the hospital Tuesday, authorities said. Five-year-old Usher Raymond V on Monday fell to the bottom of pool behind a home downtown and became stuck in the drain, according to Atlanta police spokesman Carlos Campos' report. A housekeeper tried to get to the boy, but was unable to free him from the drain, Campos said. Two men who were working at the home as audio-visual subcontractors were called to help. The boy was eventually pulled from the pool, and given CPR by one of the contractors. Campos said the boy was "conscious, alert and breathing" when paramedics arrived before 4 p.m. He was at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish Rite.

Rep: Dustin Hoffman 'surgically cured' of cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dustin Hoffman is doing well after being successfully treated for cancer. A spokeswoman for the 75-year-old actor-director confirmed a People.com report Tuesday that says Hoffman is "feeling great and in good health" after undergoing cancer treatment. Publicist Jodi Gottlieb told the site that Hoffman's cancer was detected early and "surgically cured." She offered no other details. Hoffman made his directorial debut last year with "Quartet."

Steven Spielberg pulls out of 'American Sniper'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steven Spielberg is no longer planning to direct "American Sniper." Publicist Marvin Levy confirmed Tuesday that Spielberg won't helm the adaptation of Chris Kyle's best-selling autobiography as announced in May. Bradley Cooper is set to play the former Navy SEAL sniper, who was killed along with a friend earlier this year while at a North Texas gun range. A 25-year-old former Marine and Iraq war veteran was indicted for the killings last month. Kyle is considered the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history. At the time of his death, he was working on another book, "American Gun: A History of the U.S. in Ten Firearms."

Contractor wants to fire his wife, but save his marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a self-employed general contractor, and have been for the most part successful. My wife, "Janine," worked in the mortgage industry, but because of the economic downturn hasn't worked in three years.

After her mom provided some financial help to my business eight months ago, Janine decided she wanted to work for me doing the office work and bookkeeping. The problem is, she doesn't show up until late afternoon and stays only a short while. She doesn't get any work done, and then she leaves. She constantly rushes to get the bills paid at the very last minute.

Although my wife is college-educated, she really can't handle the job. Her work ethic is terrible. I started my company and I'm the boss. When Janine doesn't agree with me about something, she yells so loud I'm sure the people who work next door can hear her. I have talked to her about this, and we have fought about it. I tried to fire her but she says if she can't work for my business, we might as well get divorced.

I never wanted a partner and didn't ask for one, and now I feel trapped with an employee from hell. I love Janine and don't want a divorce. How can I get her to quit and still stay married?

NEEDS HELP IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NEEDS: Your wife's behavior is immature and inappropriate. If her being in your office is connected to the money her mother loaned you, my advice is to repay it immediately before your wife's "dabbling" as a business partner disrupts the business any further.

You may love Janine, but if the only thing holding your marriage together is allowing her to play at working in the office, then I'm sorry to say you don't have much of a marriage. Wake up and smell the coffee. You need an assistant and your wife needs something else to occupy her time.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was abused as a child through my teenage years. I told my mom and we talked about it. My stepfather was the molester.

Part of me is still angry about what he did to me, but another part thinks fondly of the life we had as kids. What's wrong with me? Is it normal to have conflicted emotions about a person who hurt you? None of my siblings know about my past. My stepfather is deceased now and so is my mom.

SURVIVOR IN MARYLAND

DEAR SURVIVOR: You deserve credit for not only being able to acknowledge your pain, but also emotionally mature enough to look back and not diminish the good things. It's a sign that you are healthy. Your feelings are normal, and you are to be congratulated for being able to view your history in its entirety.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The women I work with are now starting to have grandchildren. That's great, but when did it become trendy to have baby showers for the grandmothers? Personally, I think this is over the top. What about you?

SHOWER OVERLOAD IN MINNESOTA

DEAR SHOWER OVERLOAD: I don't agree. It may have become trendy around the time that so many grandmothers assumed responsibility for raising their grandchildren. Or, the women may be so excited about welcoming a first grandchild that they want to celebrate with a party of their own. Because you feel differently, simply decline the invitations.

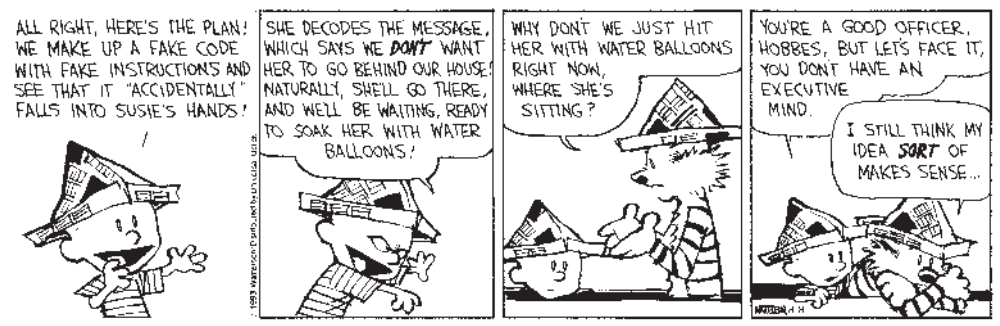
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

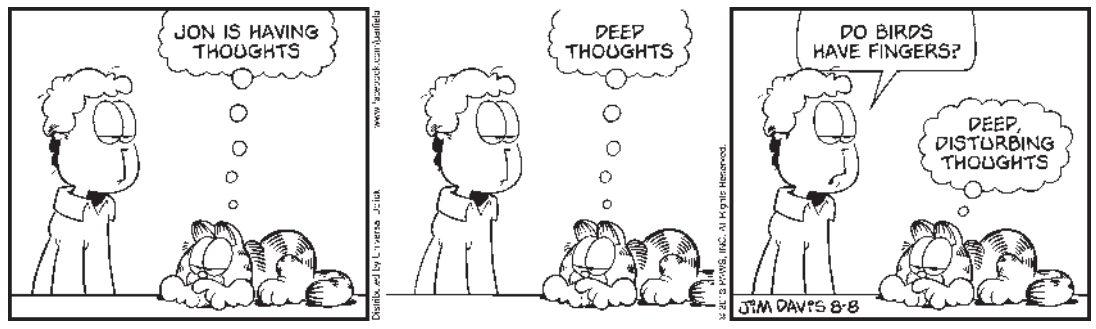
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE PLAN! WE MAKE UP A FAKE CODE WITH FAKE INSTRUCTIONS AND SEE THAT IT "ACCIDENTALLY" FALLS INTO SUSIE'S HANDS!
SHE DECODES THE MESSAGE, WHICH SAYS WE DON'T WANT HER TO GO BEHIND OUR HOUSE! NATURALLY, SHE'LL GO THERE, AND WE'LL BE WAITING, READY TO SOAK HER WITH WATER BALLOONS!
WHY DON'T WE JUST HIT HER WITH WATER BALLOONS RIGHT NOW, WHERE SHE'S SITTING?
YOU'RE A GOOD OFFICER, HOBBES, BUT LET'S FACE IT, YOU DON'T HAVE AN EXECUTIVE MIND.
I STILL THINK MY IDEA SORT OF MAKES SENSE...

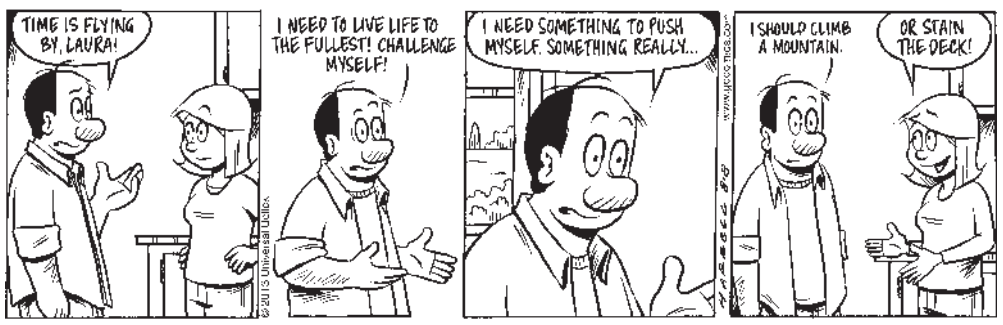
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



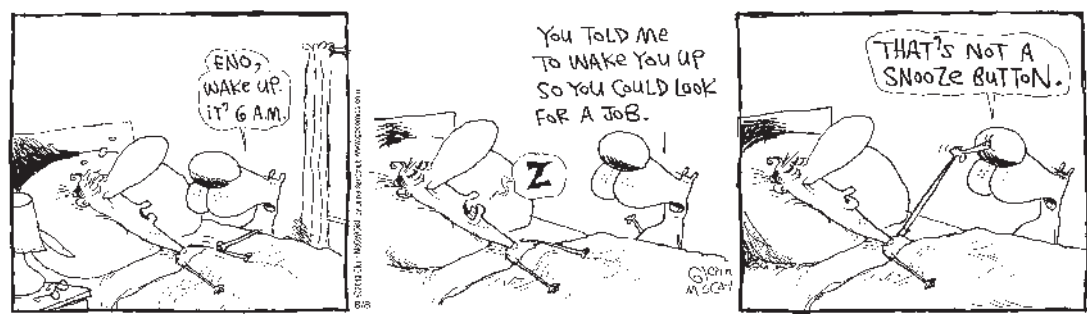
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


TIME IS FLYING BY, LAURA!
I NEED TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST! CHALLENGE MYSELF!
I NEED SOMETHING TO PUSH MYSELF. SOMETHING REALLY...
I SHOULD CLIMB A MOUNTAIN.
OR STAIN THE DECK!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hay there
5 Siesta
8 "Consarn it all!"
12 Vicinity
13 Acapulco gold
14 Small bit
15 Vegan's no-no
16 Golf prop
17 On
18 She outwitted Shylock
20 Bovary or Butterfly
22 Frequently
23 Obtain
24 Bullets, e.g.
27 Soon to land
32 "Skip to My —"
33 Navy's CIA equivalent
34 — pro nobis
35 Where to surf without getting wet
38 Break suddenly
39 Carte lead-in
40 Piercing tool
42 Green film on copper
45 Riddle
49 Low-pH
50 Island neckwear
52 Part of a superhero costume
53 Old woman's home?
54 Expert
55 Leg joint
56 Transmit
57 — Diego
58 Look for

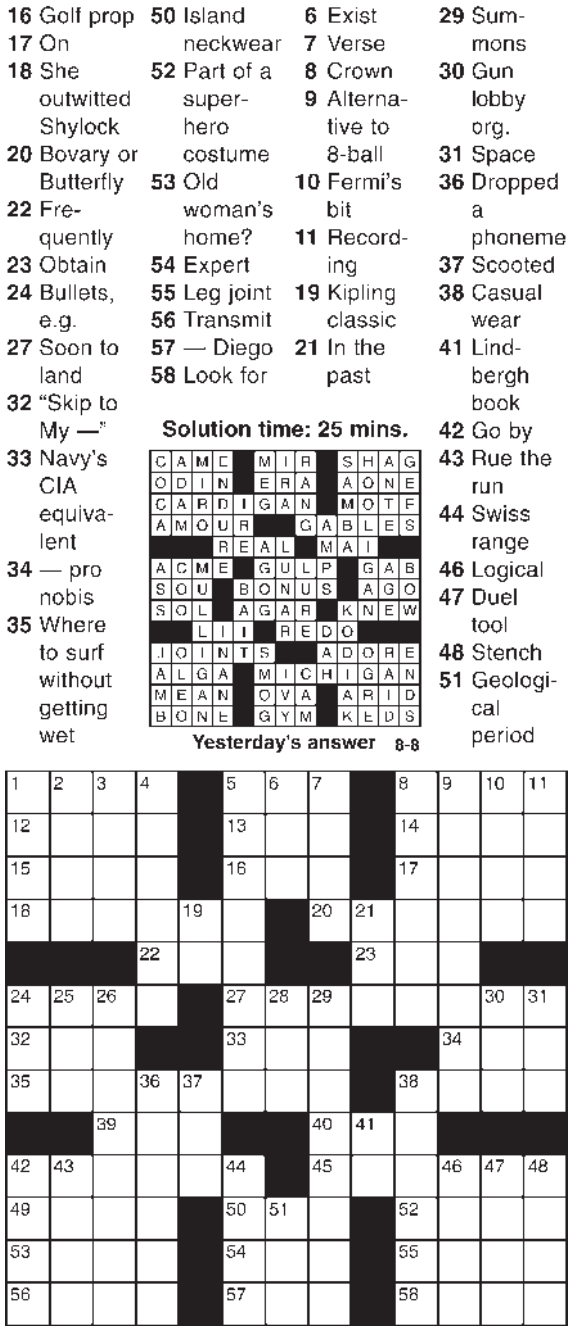
DOWN

1 Genie's home
2 Sandwich cookie
3 Dread
4 Body art
5 Bit of marginalia
6 Exist
7 Verse
8 Crown
9 Alternative to 8-ball
10 Fermi's bit
11 Recording
19 Kipling classic
21 In the past
24 Boxing legend
25 Calendar abbr.
26 Chromosomal change
28 Away from SSW
29 Summons
30 Gun lobby org.
31 Space
36 Dropped a phoneme
37 Scooted
38 Casual wear
41 Lindbergh book
42 Go by
43 Rue the run
44 Swiss range
46 Logical
47 Duel tool
48 Stench
51 Geological period

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	M	C		M	I	R		S	H	A	G
O	D	I	N		E	R	A		A	O	N	E
C	A	R	D	I	G	A	N		M	O	T	F
A	M	O	U	R		G	A	B	L	E	S	
			R	E	A	L		M	A	I		
A	C	M	E		G	U	L	P		G	A	B
S	O	U		B	O	N	U	S		A	G	O
S	O	L		A	G	A	R		K	N	E	W
		L	I	I		R	E	D	O			
J	O	I	N	T	S			A	D	O	R	E
A	L	G	A		M	I	C	H	I	G	A	N
M	E	A	N		O	V	A		A	R	I	D
B	O	N	E		G	Y	M		K	E	D	S

Yesterday's answer 8-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Federer, 32; Joely Collins, 41; Keith Carradine, 64; Dustin Hoffman, 76.

Happy Birthday: Knowledge will be the key to getting ahead. Ask questions and do your research before you step in a new direction. Be accountable for your decisions, and those with a vested interest in your success will take you seriously. Added responsibilities will prepare you for the future. Revert back to what has worked for you in the past. Your numbers are 3, 9, 15, 23, 36, 41, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An opportunity to make a career move is evident. Reach out to past employers, colleagues or people you have met through industry events, and network your way into a position that suits the lifestyle you want to live. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A creative hobby can lead to extra cash if you market what you have to offer throughout your community. Working from home will give you more time to spend with your family, but it will be a difficult adjustment at first. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Work must take top priority. Whether it is at-home chores or a job you are doing for money, pay close attention to detail. An error will reflect on the way you do things and can lead to complaints or a demotion. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A conversation will lead to interesting possibilities. Think outside the box, be innovative and get involved, but don't let anyone do your thinking for you. Take control and own the moment. Make your expertise count. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Change is heading your way. Travel or visiting unfamiliar places will give you ideas that can help you expand your interests and options. Check out the small-but-important details before you make a commitment. Good fortune can be yours. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Strive to be and do your best, especially when helping others. Those you help now will surprise you with something special when you least expect it. An unusual relationship will inspire and motivate you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen carefully, but refrain from getting involved in an aggressive debate. Too much of anything will be your weakness. Prepare to accept whatever change comes your way, and do what you can to make it work for you in a positive manner. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make love, not war. Put your passion into the things you love to do and the people you enjoy being with. A change in the way you approach life will encourage you to change your surroundings or environment to ease your stress. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your ego in place. Too much confidence can lead to problems with someone you deal with at work or within your community. Concentrate on money matters and how to improve your current economic situation. A change at home will help you prosper. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look over your contracts, assets or any pending matters that need to be brought to completion. Don't be afraid to do things a little differently. Uniqueness will entice people to take notice and support what you do. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change of pace and plans will help you get back on track. Work-related matters may escalate, and the process of earning more money by using your skills in an unusual way will develop. A partnership that you question must be equalized. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Speak up concerning any emotional matters that are making you feel unsure of your position or a partnership. Broaden your outlook, and you will create more options. Expand your friendships and engage in functions that will bring you into contact with influential people. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, hardworking and precise. You are quick to react.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		8				
	4			9	5	6		
2							3	
					8		5	
3	5						9	6
	2		6					
	6							8
		8	4	3			7	
				7		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	4	5	2	3	7	9	6
7	2	6	1	9	4	8	5	3
3	5	9	6	8	7	4	1	2
2	9	5	7	4	8	3	6	1
1	8	7	3	6	2	9	4	5
4	6	3	9	5	1	2	8	7
5	7	8	2	1	9	6	3	4
9	3	1	4	7	6	5	2	8
6	4	2	8	3	5	1	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING ELVIS **Solution: 11 letters**

I	E	Y	A	L	L	I	C	S	I	R	P	S	S	O
T	N	E	M	N	R	O	D	A	E	K	A	H	S	I
D	R	T	S	R	E	L	O	E	R	C	O	O	I	D
N	C	O	E	S	A	G	A	K	E	E	N	W	K	A
A	O	G	L	R	E	T	D	D	S	O	E	S	L	R
L	N	L	L	L	N	N	I	C	O	N	O	R	E	E
E	C	A	I	O	U	A	N	U	N	T	L	M	T	N
C	E	D	V	O	V	P	T	E	G	B	E	O	O	I
A	R	Y	H	I	G	E	M	I	T	E	P	V	H	A
R	T	S	S	O	L	O	Ⓑ	U	O	C	U	I	H	T
G	S	R	A	U	T	Ⓛ	L	E	J	N	T	E	A	R
A	N	L	N	H	Ⓤ	O	U	D	K	S	A	S	W	E
R	A	I	E	Ⓔ	O	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	A	T
O	F	R	K	C	U	D	E	Z	I	L	O	D	I	N
N	O	N	R	E	V	L	I	S	A	M	A	R	I	E

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Adornment, Army, Blue, Career, Concerts, Cool, Creole, Duck, Entertainer, Fans, Garon, Gladys, Gold, Graceland, Guitar, Hawaii, Hits, Hotel, Hound, Icon, Idolized, International, Jump, Keen, King, Kiss, Lisa Marie, Love, Mother, Movies, Musical, Nashville, Priscilla, Radio, Rock, Rol, Saga, Shake, Shoes, Shows, Solo, Sullivan, Tennessee, Tupelo, Vernon

Yesterday's Answer: Workstation

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 33, 34, 35, 36 or 37, call 1-800-642-6480. Order on line at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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1-Building Maintenance. Minimum salary. With 3 years experience. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

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Looking for a SAFE 2-3 bedroom house. Preferably with ocean view. Call Alex at 989-2502

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Marianas Security Corp.
P.O. Box 500438, Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(5) Security Officers
(1) General Maintenance
US citizen's applicants only
Interested applicants may drop off resume at our office or simply call 234-9675.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(8) **Mason** – 5 years experience - $5.55/hr
Interested applicants must contact and submit resume to
RPCF, INC.
P.O. Box 504549 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel #: 234-9127 • Email - brian@pticom.com

Transpacific Corporation
P.O. Box 500756, Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
Building Maintenance Repairer
Duties include minor plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting and other related work as assigned. 5 years work experience.
PLEASE SEND RESUME TO OUR OFFICE.

OCEANSIDE BAR N GRILL JOB
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cook (1)
- High school graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable of all menus and recipes in his section including ingredients, methods of cooking and preparation of dishes and assures that the correct standard of sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness is always maintained.
- Salary $5.55/Hourly

Bartender (2)
- High School graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable in mixing drinks and serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and beverages to customers
- Salary $5.55/Hourly

Interested applicants can apply in person or email their resume at osidebarngrill@yahoo.com

JOSEPH C. REYES
dba: Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital
Job Vacancy Announcement

Chief Bartender (2)
Qualifications:
- High School graduate or equivalent with minimum of at least 5 years experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails
- Must know how to give instructions and supervision to his assistants
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills required
- Full time with flexible working hours

Interested applicants may submit resume to Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital's Office in Garapan.
Phone: 233-5367

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit their application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. Building, Lower Base, by August 23rd, 2013. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bld. 1 Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Operations Manager (01)

Job Duties: Responsible for supervision, training, and management of Operations Department including but not limited to: attendance, company policy & procedure compliance, service & performance training, etc. Ensures highest standard of performance from the team. Follow up and deal with all related administration issues. Responsible for organizing, planning and conducting all kinds of expeditions, travel, and tours for groups and individuals by working closely with other department managers. Ensures all travel arrangements run according to plan and that accommodation, meals and service are satisfactory. Ensures that the tour is running smoothly for individual members of the group. Able to make and coach Operation Coordinators in designing flexible tour packages to meet the needs of different clients. Maintain effective working relationships with staff, clients, and visitors. Identify customer needs and ensure their continued business with the Company. Proactive in creating a sales culture through our people. Works closely with GM & other Department managers to maximize occupancy of rooms and meetings, rates, yield and average spends by implementing appropriate training and communication systems, also to evaluate sales performance and product on a regular basis in order to recognize challenges for the future. Actively seeks all sales and revenue opportunities both internal and external to increase the profile of company. Should be flexible and adaptable according to business/project adjustment. Responsible for required reports and maintaining records. An efficient problem solver. Report to GM/VP when assistance or support is needed. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: High school diploma and College Majors in Tourism and Travel Services Management is preferred. Previous 3-5 years work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required. Has high attention to details, is creative, and able to work with a team. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good negotiation and communication skills. Able to solve problems and has good public relations skills. Able to deal with emergencies. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Operations Clerk (02)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Salary will be paid and positions will be filled commensurate with qualification, work experience and ability to perform. Worksite locations are on Saipan and at all Century Tours, Inc. offices. Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Electronic trail helped MLB gain Biogenesis bans

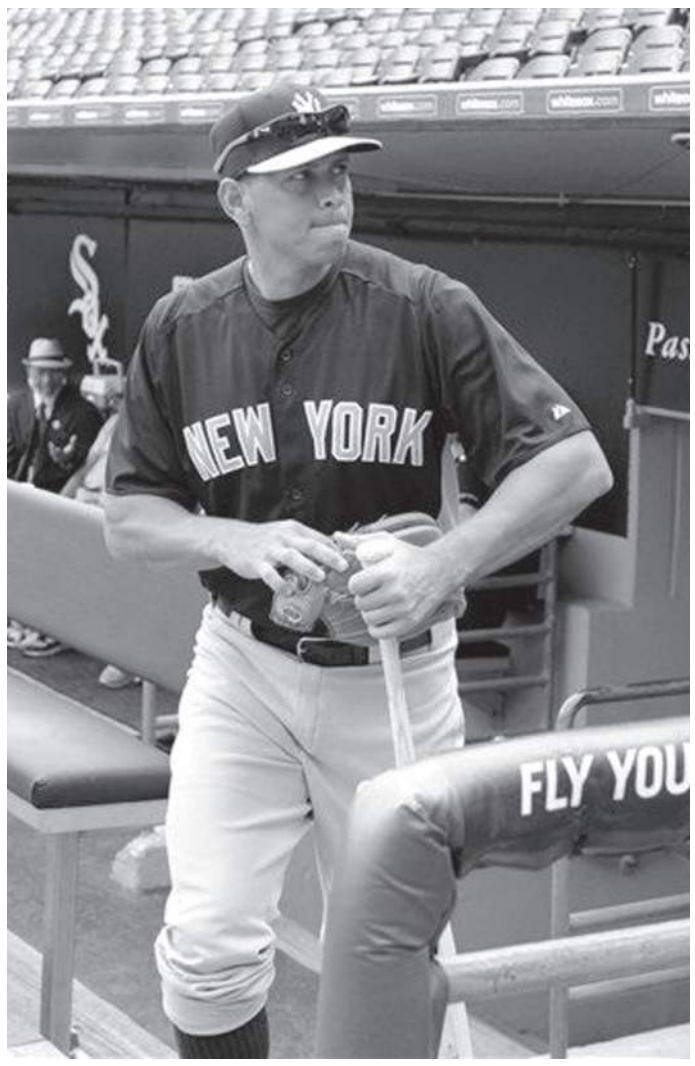
NEW YORK (AP)— Facebook friends. Transcripts of BlackBerry instant messages. Records of texts.

Major League Baseball's investigators used an arsenal of high-tech tools to collect the evidence that persuaded a dozen players to accept 50-game suspensions this week for their ties to the Biogenesis clinic.

And when it came time to meet with the players' association, they flashed some of their documentary proof. While there was not enough time for the union to thoroughly examine what baseball had collected, there was little doubt there was an electronic trail, one of the people familiar with the meetings said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no public statements were authorized.

"It both complicates things and adds a layer of proof that certainly wasn't available many years ago," union general counsel David Prouty said Tuesday.

Alex Rodriguez, the lone holdout against a suspension, faces an arbitration hearing in coming months that likely will include such evidence. The New York Yankees third baseman was suspended for 211 games from Thursday through the 2014 season, though he is allowed to play until a decision is issued by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, which is not expected until at least November.



AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez leaves the dugout to take batting practice before a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013 in Chicago.

Until now, nearly all suspensions under MLB's drug program resulted from positive drug tests. The Biogenesis probe revealed players were using PEDs without detection.

"To catch the most sophisticated intentional fraudsters, you have to use non-analytical means, which is another reason why baseball's effort here is such a pivotal moment for the anti-doping fight," said Travis Tygart, chief executive office of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

MLB officials would not speak for attribution about its investigation. The league used about 30 people full time in its fact-gathering, another person familiar with the process said Tuesday, also on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

The probe was sparked in January when the Miami New Times published documents linking players to the clinic and accused it of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

Technology has evolved since 2003, when federal agents raided the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative in Burlingame, Calif., sparking an investigation that eventually led to criminal convictions of Barry Bonds, track star Marion Jones, cyclist Tammy Thomas and NFL lineman Dana Stubblefield.

And when former Sen. George Mitchell issued his report on drugs in baseball four years later, he recommended baseball start an investigations department. Dan Mullin, a former New York City Police Officer, was hired as the unit's head in 2008. Former U.S. Secret Service director Mark Sullivan was brought in to assist in the Biogenesis probe.

After the Miami New Times report, baseball investigators examined the Facebook pages of Bosch and Porter Fisher, the former Biogenesis associate who gave documents to the newspaper. They began to sketch out which people they were friends with, and which of those friends posted photos of athletes or mentioned athletes. Each link led to new loops that provided leads.

MLB filed a lawsuit in March against Biogenesis of America, company founder Anthony Bosch and others, complaining they interfered with the contracts between MLB and the union. The suit was unusual and may never reach trial, but it did give MLB the ability to file civil subpoenas.

Records from Florida's Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County that were examined by the AP showed subpoenas were issued to Federal Express, AT&T Mobility, T-Mobile USA, UPS and Metro PCS. At least some of those companies complied and turned over data to the probe, one of the people said.

By June, Bosch agreed to cooperate with the investigation. The person said MLB hired a data recovery company to obtain records from his mobile telephone.

When baseball officials met with the union, evidence included the BlackBerry instant message transcripts and records of text messages. Lawyers for players believed some emails also had been recovered.

"It's like traditional law enforcement methods," Tygart said. "Even without the powers of law enforcement—wiretaps, search warrants—you can still have success in obtaining these documents."

Braves' win streak at 12 after 2-1 win over Nats

WASHINGTON (AP)óHit by a pitch two innings after homering, Bryce Harper jawed and pointed at Atlanta's Julio Teheran, and the dugouts and bullpens emptied, but the only haymakers thrown during the NL East-leading Braves' 2-1 victory over the Nationals on Tuesday night came from the teams' Twitter feeds.

Evan Gattis' two-run single in the fifth inning and the six innings thrown by Teheran (9-5) while allowing one run combined to produce Atlanta's season-high 12th consecutive win, padding their NL East lead to 14 1/2 games over Washington.

Gattis' big hit came off Gio Gonzalez (7-5), who pitched one night after Major League Baseball announced its Biogenesis investigation cleared the left-hander.

Cardinals 5, Dodgers 1

In St. Louis, Carlos Beltran and Matt Adams homered in the eighth inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals snapped the Los Angeles Dodgers' 15-game road winning streak with a 5-1 victory on Tuesday night.

Joe Kelly pitched into the sixth inning, outperforming Clayton Kershaw and helping St. Louis to its fourth victory in the last six games. Tony Cruz added an RBI single.

Adrian Gonzalez hit a one-out RBI single off Kelly (3-3) in the sixth, but that was it for Los Angeles against the right-hander. He left with runners on first and second and the Cardinals nursing a 2-1 lead.

Pirates 4, Marlins 3

In Pittsburgh, Josh Harrison homered leading off the bottom of the ninth, lifting the Pirates to a win over the Marlins.

Harrison sent a fastball from Miami's Mike Dunn (2-3) into the first row of seats in left-center field for his first career walk-off homer.

Dunn had worked out of a bases loaded, no-out jam in the eighth.

Phillies 9, Cubs 8

In Philadelphia, Darin Ruf and Chase Utley sparked a three-run fifth inning to lift the Phillies to a 9-8 win over the Cubs.

Utley, who had three hits, drove in the tying run on a triple to deep center field. He soon scored on Domonic Brown's groundout to give the Phillies the lead. Ruf added one more on a solo home run, his fourth of the season.

Philadelphia tagged Edwin Jackson (7-12) for seven runs and 10 hits in six innings.

Mets 3, Rockies 2

In New York, Eric Young made a diving catch to take a go-ahead hit away from Todd Helton in the sixth inning, then raced home with the tiebreaking run in the eighth, and the Mets beat the Rockies.

The Rockies have lost 12 of 18 since the All-Star break and have scored five runs in their last three games.

LaTroy Hawkins got his first save since May 6, 2012, for the Angels.

Scott Atchison (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth inning.

Brewers 3, Gianys 1

In San Francisco, Carlos Gomez homered, Wily Peralta outdueled Matt Cain to end a three-start winless stretch and the Brewers beat the Giants.

Gomez hit his 18th homer in the second as the Brewers jumped on Cain (7-7) early. Jonathan Lucroy added a ninth-inning sacrifice fly.

Peralta (8-11) struck out six of nine batters during an early sequence and finished with six Ks in 6 1-3 innings for his first career victory against the Giants.

Reds 3, Athletics 1

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce homered and made a run-saving catch on the warning track, and Mat Latos pitched into the eighth inning against Oakland's slumping lineup, leading the Reds to a victory over the Athletics.

The Reds had dropped seven of nine and were coming off what players called an embarrassing weekend against St. Louisólosses of 13-3 and 15-2.

They found an American League team struggling even more. The West-leading Athletics have lost five of six.

Diamondbacks 6, Rays 1

In Phoenix, Cody Ross homered and Wade Miley allowed five hits in seven innings to help the Diamondbacks beat the Rays.

Miley (9-8) allowed one run, struck out five and walked two for his fifth win in his past six starts.

Eric Chavez had a pair of RBI doubles for the Diamondbacks, who pulled within five games of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

Orioles 4, Padres 1

In San Diego, Adam Jones tied his career high with four hits, including a home run, drove in two runs and scored twice against his hometown Padres as the Orioles beat San Diego.

Bud Norris (8-9) won his second straight start since joining the Orioles, holding San Diego to one run and five hits in six innings.

Jones homered into the balcony on the second level of the Western Metal Supply Co. brick warehouse in the left field corner at Petco Park leading off the fourth off Edinson Volquez. It was his 23rd.

Tigers 5, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Justin Verlander dominated for eight innings and Don Kelly hit a three-run homer off Justin Masterson, leading the Detroit Tigers to their 10th straight win, 5-1 over the Cleveland Indians.

Verlander (12-8) allowed one run and four hits as the Tigers beat the Indians for 10th time in 11 games and opened a five-game lead over Cleveland in the AL Central.

Kelly connected in the fifth inning off Masterson (13-8) and Miguel Cabrera picked up his 100th RBI as the Tigers improved to 11-3 against their nearest division rival.

Twins 7, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Andrew Albers allowed four hits while pitching into the ninth inning in his major league debut, easily outdueling Royals ace James Shields and leading the Twins over Kansas City.

The first big leaguer from Saskatchewan in more than 20 years, Albers at one point retired 15 straight.

He was two outs shy of his third straight complete game dating back to Triple-A Rochester, and the first shutout in a big league debut since Detroit's Andy Van Hekken did it in 2002.

White Sox 3, Yankees 2

In Chicago, Chris Sale allowed one run while outpitching Hiroki Kuroda in to the eighth inning, and the White Sox beat the Yankees.

Alex Rodriguez singled, walked, was hit by a pitch and lined out to center field after going 1 for 4 in his season debut Monday. The Yankees lost for the 13th time in 19 games after scoring a run in the ninth against closer Addison Reed.

A-Rod was on deck when Alfonso Soriano struck out to end it with a runner on first.

Red Sox 15, Astros 10

In Houston, Jacoby Ellsbury homered twice and Jonny Gomes added a three-run shot and the Red Sox rallied from a five-run deficit for a win over the Astros.

Catcher Ryan Lavarnway tied a major league record with four passed balls in the first inning as he struggled to handle pitches from knuckleballer Steven Wright, and the Astros took a 3-0 lead.

Houston extended its lead to 5-0 before Ellsbury's two-run shot in a three-run third closed the gap.

The Astros led 7-3 before a five-run fifth inning, highlighted by a two-run double by Lavarnway gave Boston a one-run lead.

Rangers 8, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Adrian Beltre drove in the tiebreaking run in the eighth, Yu Darvish pitched seven solid innings, and the Rangers beat the Angels for their eighth win in nine games.

Elvis Andrus had three hits and scored the go-ahead run as the Rangers won their third straight and moved within one game of AL West-leading Oakland, which lost at Cincinnati.

Darvish (11-5) allowed eight hits in his least effective start since returning from the disabled list late last month.

Blue Jays 7, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Jose Reyes homered on the first pitch of the game, added an RBI single to cap Toronto's big fourth inning, and the Blue Jays handed Seattle ace Felix Hernandez his first loss since late May with a win over the Mariners.

The Blue Jays battered Hernandez (11-5) and knocked him out after just five innings, matching his shortest start of the season.

A leading contender for a second AL Cy Young Award, Hernandez got no help from his defense that committed three errors that led to three unearned runs while he was on the mound.

Bucks going young and GM likes it

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Call it what you want: Rebuilding, retooling, tinkering or even tanking, the Milwaukee Bucks are in a full-blown youth movement.

Choosing to build around Larry Sanders, John Henson and Ersan Ilyasova, general manager John Hammond has blown up his roster from a year ago and given new head coach Larry Drew a group of young faces, including 18-year-old Greek phenom Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee's first-round draft pick.

"It's time we talk about our youth," Hammond said Tuesday at a news conference to introduce point guard Brandon Knight, acquired last week from Detroit in exchange for Brandon Jennings. "We have a young team but we're going to try to compete. We brought in some veteran pieces to help us as we move forward that will provide leadership and mentorship, but they're players capable of getting on the floor and help us win games.

Knight is the latest piece to Milwaukee's offseason puzzle.

The eighth overall pick in 2011, Knight averaged 13.1 points, 3.2 rebounds and 3.9 assists in two seasons with the Pistons. Just 21, Knight fits the mold of a young and hungry player that Hammond and Drew sought while shaping the Bucks' roster. Knight also fits into Hammond's plan of maintaining financial flexibility.

Some might peg the 6-foot-3 Knight as more of a shooting guard, but he and Drew made it clear Tuesday: He will handle the ball for Milwaukee.

"I'm a point guard, there's no question in my mind," Knight said.

Drew agreed.

"What he brings to the table is what a coach looks for at that position, the speed, the quickness," Drew said. "The ability to make shots, the ability to get to the lane. The ability to make other people better. I don't know where this, `Is he a point guard, is he a shooting guard?' came from. He's always, in my eyes, been a point guard. A point guard that has the ability to score, and that's a big, big luxury."

AP

In this April 7, 2013, file photo, Detroit Pistons guard Brandon Knight (7) looks to pass against Chicago Bulls guard Jimmy Butler (21) during an NBA basketball game in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Out after four years is Jennings, Milwaukee's first-round choice in 2009. He showed plenty of promise his rookie season when he teamed up with big man Andrew Bogut for a talented high-low combination and helped the Bucks push Atlanta to seven games in a first-round playoff series. Inconsistency and poor shooting were the hallmarks of Jennings' last few seasons and when Milwaukee signed Jeff Teague to a four-year offer sheet—later matched by the Hawks—it signaled the end of Jennings' time in Milwaukee.

"It was a very difficult decision," Hammond said. "I really appreciate what he brought to this organization the last four years. I'd call him a warrior. He put forth a great effort for us."

Milwaukee has also acquired free agent guards O.J. Mayo and Gary Neal, veteran centers Zaza Pachulia and Miroslav Raduljica, point guard Luke Ridnour and small forward Carlos Delfino while dealing forward and defensive specialist Luc Richard Mbah a Moute for a future second-round draft choice. Unrestricted free agents Monta Ellis and Mike Dunleavy Jr. were not retained and J.J. Redick was moved in a sign-and-trade for another second-round pick.

Drew Gooden was waived using the amnesty clause of the collective bargaining agreement and Slava Kravstov, acquired in the trade with Detroit, is expected to be released.

In all, the Bucks return just a handful players from last season's disappointing 38-44 campaign: Sanders, Henson, Ish Smith and Epke Udoh.

Sanders, Henson and Ilyasova are considered the core and Hammond thinks that group, along with the newcomers, will at least provide a much more productive locker room atmosphere than the last few seasons, which were marked with dissension.

"I think as the season wound down, we had a little dysfunction at times within our roster," Hammond said. "I think we've rectified that. At the end of the day, I'm hoping to have a team that's going to play hard, compete and enjoy playing with each other."

But. can this group win? Hammond certainly thinks so.

"Some people use words like tanking but we're in no way in that mode," Hammond said. "We're trying to remain competitive and I think we can be but we really want to start focusing on the youth and start talking about things like a championship-caliber team and building around our young players. I think they can develop into a core like that."

Cooper back with Eagles after excused absence

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Wide receiver Riley Cooper returned to the Philadelphia Eagles Tuesday after a four-day excused absence to undergo sensitivity training after he was caught on film yelling a racial slur before a Kenny Chesney concert.

Cooper, in his fourth year out of the University of Florida, seemed remorseful during an eight-minute press conference with the media after the Eagles and New England Patriots began what will be a three-day practice routine before Friday night's preseason opener.

"It's great to be back doing what I love to do, play football," Cooper said. "I realize being in the NFL you have responsibility to behave on and off the field. I realize that."

"I realize how many people I hurt, how many families I hurt, how many kids I hurt. It's going to be tough. I'm going to live with this every day the rest of my life. It's one of those things you can't let affect your play on the field."

Video of Cooper's racial slur surfaced Wednesday. He was immediately fined an undisclosed amount by the team, but was not suspended. Ironically, two days earlier he was promoted to the starting lineup after Jeremy Maclin suffered a season-ending injury.

Last Friday, Eagles coach Chip Kelly announced that Cooper was given time off to seek counseling. Kelly did not put a timetable on his return. Four days later, he was back at practice and caught two touchdown passes against the Patriots' defense.

"My concern wasn't how he practiced," Kelly said after practice. "It's just him with the team itself and to get the chance to make sure he got to talk to every single guy so that they understood how we felt, what he did, and understand that he's truly sorry for what he did."

Cooper said he talked to every one of his teammates, face to face, and apologized.

"I told them I don't want you to forgive me. That puts the burden on you. I want it all on me. I apologized," he said. "They could tell it was from the heart. They know I'm not that kind of person. It feels good to have the support of the guys."

After one of his touchdown passes, he got a chest bump from teammate and fellow wide receiver Jason Avant, who is an African-American, and high fives from several other teammates.

"I took a few days," he said. "It's been a tough, tough road. I talked to Chip. He asked me if I'm ready to come back. I told him I was. I wanted to get back on the field and get back out here with my guys."

Kelly emphasized that since the leave was an excused absence and not a suspension, Cooper was able to return once he felt he was ready.

"I deferred to who he went to go visit with," Kelly said. "Again, it wasn't like he was suspended and he had to go through a set of things to come back. We just excused him, because everybody that met with him—and Riley himself—felt that he needed to go talk to someone."

Kelly felt that going forward the team is in a good position with Cooper

"We've got a pretty good pulse on where we are right now," he said. "Our players have been fantastic with us in terms of feedback, so it's really certainly a situation that, as I said, isn't something that we just kind of put in the back seat and get moving forward. We'll make sure we keep our eyes and ears open and continue to monitor the situation."

That includes owner Jeffrey Lurie, who issued the following statement, Tuesday.

"I want to make this clear; the words Riley Cooper used were totally unacceptable. His words may have been directed at one person but they hurt everyone," Lurie wrote. "Riley has apologized to the team and community and has made a personal commitment to work hard to try and gain their trust and earn his position on the team."

Heat-Bulls, Lakers-Clippers on NBA's opening night

NEW YORK (AP)—The Miami Heat will open their title defense against the Chicago Bulls on Oct. 29 in the expected return of Derrick Rose, with an all-Los Angeles matchup later that night in the Lakers' first game without Dwight Howard and the Clippers' first with Doc Rivers.

The NBA's 2013-14 schedule, released Tuesday, also features a potential LeBron James-Kobe Bryant duel on Christmas in Los Angeles, right after scoring stars Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant match up across the country in New York.

Howard's first visit to the Lakers since leaving for Houston as a free agent doesn't come until Feb. 19, giving Bryant plenty of time to get back to full strength from his torn Achilles' tendon near the end of last season.

The Indiana Pacers host the Orlando Magic in the opening game of the season, about the time the Heat are holding another championship ring ceremony. Then Miami will try to give Rose a rough welcome back in what's likely to be his first NBA game since tearing his knee in the opening game of the 2012 playoffs.

Most teams open on Oct. 30. Two nights later, the Heat will serve as the opponent for the new-look Brooklyn Nets' first home game since acquiring Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce from Boston.

That duo, which helped lead the Celtics to the 2008 NBA championship, will make its emotional return to Boston on Jan. 26. Rivers will coach his first game back there on Dec. 11—one night after the Celtics see Garnett and Pierce for the first time in Brooklyn. Rivers will then renew acquaintances with his two star players on Dec. 12 at Barclays Center.

Other highlights of the schedule, which was released during an NBA TV special program:

■ The Heat will host the Spurs on Jan. 26 in their first meeting since they edged San Antonio in Game 7 of the NBA Finals. The teams also meet in Texas on March 6.

■ The marquee Christmas Day schedule features five games: Chicago at Brooklyn, Oklahoma City at New York, Miami at the Lakers, Houston at San Antonio, and the Clippers at Golden State.

■ No. 1 pick Anthony Bennett could make his NBA debut at home when Cleveland hosts Brooklyn on Oct. 30.

■ The Nets have a three-game road trip in three different countries from Jan. 11-20. They open at Toronto, travel to London to face the Atlanta Hawks on Jan. 16 in the O2 Arena, and then return to New York to visit the rival Knicks in a Dr. Martin Luther King Day matinee.

■ San Antonio and Minnesota play Dec. 4 in Mexico City.

The regular season ends April 16. The All-Star game is Feb. 16 in New Orleans.

Yuichiro wins in 2OT; RadioCom prevails

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Yuichiro Printing needed not one, but two overtime periods to thwart Navy Hill, 79-75, in the curtain-raiser in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

James Villacrusis made the game-tying triple in regulation, while Jerry Diaz canned the undergoal stab in the first overtime to save Yuichiro. Villacrusis went on to add 5 more points in the second extra frame and Juan Camacho contributed two baskets to finally end the 50-minute match.

Villacrusis top-scored for Yuichiro Printing with his 25 points, while Camacho chipped in 23. Yuichiro now has 2-2 record and is likely to advance to the playoffs, as Navy Hill fell to a 1-5 slate and last place in Pool A. Out of the seven teams in Pool A, only the Top 6 will march into the playoffs.

Navy Hill had several chances to close out the match in regulation and the first overtime, but missed crucial free throws. It also wasted a 12-point lead in the third quarter, 54-42, as it failed to stop Camacho from bringing Yuichiro back into the game. Camacho dropped 9 points in the fourth period, added 2 in the first overtime and helped Villacrusis in the second extension.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
RadioCom's Alex Standish pulls up for a jumper over Wushin's Angelo Fernando during the first quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the late night Pool B match, RadioCom finished the regular season on a positive note, downing Wushin/Kixx Engine Oil, 74-59.

RadioCom improved to a 5-1 record and gained one of the two automatic quarterfinals berths in Pool B, while Wushin is likely to be eliminated with its dismal 0-5 slate.

Wushin kept RadioCom within striking distance in the first three periods, but the latter saved the best for last en route to the 15-point win. Justin Zapanta delivered the killer blows for RadioCom in the fourth canto, nailing four triples, three of them came in streaks in the closing minutes of the payoff period.

Zapanta finished with 16 points, while Perry Inos and Albert Salas contributed 14 and 12, respectively. Angelo Fernando also had 16 markers for Wushin.

First Game

Yuichiro 79 – Villacrusis 25, Camacho 23, Gomez 9, Camacho 8, Diaz 8, Cunanan 4.

Navy Hill 75 – Buenabajo 21, Devero 19, Leomo 13, Culala 7, Cortez 3, Diaz 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-11, 28-27, 42-54, 61-61, 68-68, 79-75.

Second Game

RadioCom 74 – Zapanta 16, Inos 14, Salas 12, Ritual 8, Standish 7, Metran 6, Jose 4, Pantaleon 1.

Wushin 59 – Fernando 16, Patawaran 12, Villasan 10, Tibayan 8, Tengco 6, De Jesus 4, Ebuen 3.

Team SUFA holds softball fundraiser this weekend

Team SUFA will be hosting a softball fundraising tournament this weekend at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

There will be a technical meeting for interested participants at 6:30pm today at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Entrance fee is set at $100 per team. Unlimited homeruns runs for a fee of $50 and must be paid in full before the team's first game. There is no deadline to register, however, the first 10 teams to pay in full will land a spot in the double-elimination bracket.

Each team must have two female players on its roster and at least one should be in the field at all times, and both must be at the batting lineup. There is a maximum of 15 players per team. The bracket will be randomly formulated and the event is scheduled to kick off at 9am this Saturday, while the championship game is set for Sunday.

SUFA is a non-profit organization and is doing fundraising events to compete in the CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held in the mainland. The annual tournament is on its ninth year and SUFA will be competing for the sixth time. Team SUFA placed fifth out of the 19 teams that participated in last year's tournament in Boise, Idaho.

Meanwhile, Team SUFA would like to thank all those who supported their fundraising efforts.

For more information, contact SUFA at 287-3818 or send email to teamsufa@gmail.com
(Saipan Tribune)

NMI

From Page 28

bets got five semis tickets to edge the four of powerhouse and host Fiji. Samoa had three semifinalists, Vanuatu and Tahiti had two each, and Guam, New Caledonia, the Federated of States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands, and New Caledonia earned one apiece. The four other nations (Cook Islands, American Samoa, Palau, and Tonga) missed the Final Four of the boys and girls U12, U15, and U18 singles. The CNMI, which also took one gold medal in singles and three in doubles, nearly added three more semis berths, as Thea Minor, Luther Lizama, and Christian Miller finished fifth in their respective divisions.

Then in 2011, Race's wards notched six semis seats, beating Fiji (4), the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and New Caledonia, which had two each, and Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands, and American Samoa, which got one apiece.

"This year is the strongest team we have. We have very good chances in winning gold medals in the U12 and U15. The U18 division will be tougher, as this field has players who have been competing in Fiji for the past 5 to 6 years," said Race, who left with the team last night for the Aug. 12 to 16 competition.

Joining Race in Fiji are U12's Carol Lee, Tania Tan, Michael Ren, and Robbie Schorr, U15's Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Moris Villanueva, and Chris Cajigan, and U18's Tommy Choi, Amami Sakano, Jake Lee, and Minor.

Race said Rastguiy and Carol Lee maybe seeded first in the girls U15 and U12 for making it to the finals last year, while 2012 doubles champion Cajigan (with Fiji's Terry Rush) could also get the top seeding in his age group.

As for Minor, Race said the 17-year-old player's last POJC trip could also be her best finish in the annual tournament.

"We're all set. Our players have been practicing and working hard for the past few months," said Race, who led the squad's final two training sessions last Tuesday afternoon and yesterday morning at the Pacific Islands Club.

ARMATECH

From Page 28

as De Dios was hounded by Blazers defenders on his way up to the basket. Fortunately, De Dios recovered the leather and this time made the basket to move his team within one, 72-73, 45 seconds left in the game.

Still ahead, the Blazers worked the clock a bit before Sean Sablan spotted Luther Taylor cutting from the left baseline. For a moment, Taylor seemed to be up for an easy shot, but 6'9" Ken McCain entered the picture, forcing the latter to release the ball quickly, instead of taking a few dribbles. Taylor missed, while McCain got the rebound and passed it to Elmer Esdrelon, who saw Brandon Talania sprinting to the frontcourt for the go-ahead basket.

Now behind, the Blazers sued for time and were left with 23 seconds to map out a game-winning play. However, the Blazers had a hard time penetrating Armatech's stonewall defense, as the former moved the ball around outside four times before Nate Chargualaf decided to pull up for an 18-footer from the right key against the long arms of De Dios. Chargualaf muffed the crucial jumper and the Blazers were forced to give up successive fouls in the last six seconds, but since they were not in the penalty mark (only four fouls), Armatech managed to keep the ball and preserve the lead and the win as time expired.

The victory improved Armatech's record to 4-3 for a tie for fourth to sixth place with Mariana Resort and KFC/Taco Bell. The three tied teams are already in the playoffs, along with Pacific Islands and Mobil, which hold similar 5-2 records, and AXE Proa, which swept the regular season (8-0) after winning via forfeiture over San Roque last Tuesday night.

The Emon Lodge caging playoff round is expected to start next week with the Top 2 teams getting a bye in the first round and the next four battling for the two remaining spots in the second round. The Ol'Aces (1-5) and San Roque (1-6) are out of the playoffs.

Armatech 74 – McCain 18, Esdrelon 14, De Dios 12, Manalo 7, Talania 6, Ano 6, Guiab 6, David 3, Berline 2.

Blazers 73 – Brennan 20, S. Sablan 16, Quan 10, Taylor 10, Chargualaf 8, Jung 4, Cepeda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-16, 43-38, 58-55, 74-73.

FAVORITES

From Page 28

short work of Shirley's Gabriel and Brendon Talania, 21-8, 21-7. Other teams entered in the men's doubles A are Shirley's Jerry Hibi and Joseph Santos, Chris Hilario and Aries Cordero, and the Berks Blazers' Ferdie Arago and Macoi Aguda.

In the men's doubles B, two matches were decided after only two games, while the third one went the distance. Alvin Alvarez and Edwin Maratas swept Yun Jun and Son Jae Ok, 21-17, 21-19, while Shirley's Hilario and Puy Macario also needed only two games to beat TAGA's Jerry Tan and K. Park, 21-16, 21-12. In the third game, Saipan Badminton Club's Joel Ortega and Oh Im Bog survived TAGA's Panapa Peteru and Cai, 21-10, 18-21, 21-8.

In the women's division, the highly-touted pair Diane Francisco and Alma Ortega of Saipan Badminton Club took the short route in beating TAGA's Gigi Zapanta and Christy Villaflor in class B, 21-8, 21-19. Also downing their foes after only two games were Shirley's Windy Fernandez and Toshiko Obata, who prevailed over the Saipan Badminton Club's Lucelle Lampera and Rowena Sison, 21-16, 21-6.

The other women's doubles B match in the opening day of the Shirley's Badminton Classic saw Loida Ito and Elna Curate topping Merlie Tolentino and Shirley Kim in three games. Ito and Curate lost the closely fought first game, 20-21, before bouncing back in the last two, 21-16, 21-11 to steal the win.

In other results, only two singles tiffs were played last Friday with Janelle Pangilinan beating Jen Cardinio in the all-CBC duel in class A, 21-16, 21-15. In the singles C, junior player and CBC's Nicole Malasarte swept TAGA newcomer Judy Mendieta, 21-8, 21-5.

Meanwhile, Day 2 results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	69	46	.600	–
Tampa Bay	66	46	.589	1 1/2
Baltimore	62	51	.549	6
New York	57	55	.509	10 1/2
Toronto	53	60	.469	15

Central Division

Detroit	66	45	.595	–
Cleveland	62	51	.549	5
Kansas City	57	53	.518	8 1/2
Minnesota	49	61	.445	16 1/2
Chicago	42	69	.378	24

West Division

Oakland	64	48	.571	–
Texas	64	50	.561	1
Seattle	52	61	.460	12 1/2
Los Angeles	51	61	.455	13
Houston	37	75	.330	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	69	45	.605	–
Washington	54	59	.478	14 1/2
Philadelphia	51	61	.455	17
New York	50	60	.455	17
Miami	43	68	.387	24 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	68	44	.607	–
St. Louis	66	46	.589	2
Cincinnati	62	51	.549	6 1/2
Chicago	49	63	.438	19
Milwaukee	48	65	.425	20 1/2

West Division

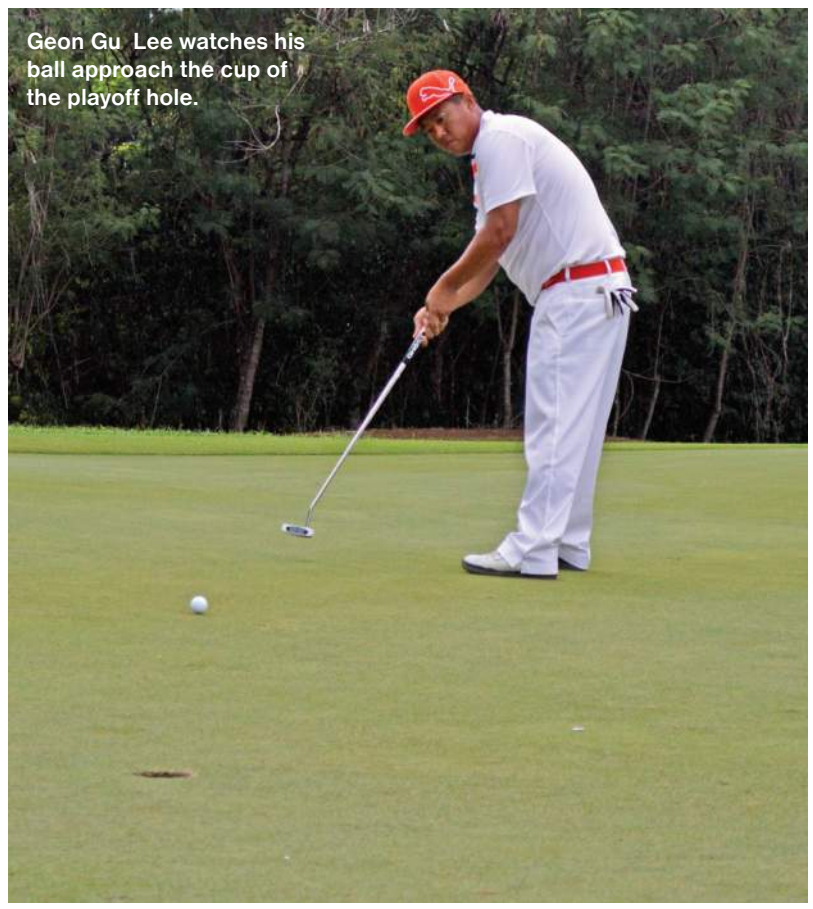
Los Angeles	62	50	.554	–
Arizona	57	55	.509	5
San Diego	52	61	.460	10 1/2
Colorado	52	62	.456	11
San Francisco	50	62	.446	12

ASSOCIATED PRESS

18th Annual Tournament of Champions

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guam's Daryl Poe, right, and Geon Gu Lee shake hands after their sudden-death playoff on hole No. 17 of the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in the Championship Flight of the 18th Annual Tournament of Champions last Sunday.



Geon Gu Lee watches his ball approach the cup of the playoff hole.

Barry Wilson, second left, receives his Senior Flight prizes from event sponsors and organizers.

Tony Benavente, center, gets his third place prize in the Senior Flight from DFS' Marianne Aldan-Pierce, left, and TOC chair Ben Babauta.

Ned Norita, center, is presented with the third place prizes in A Flight.

Super Senior Flight winner Nick Sablan poses with the awards presenters.

Super Senior fifth place Eli Buenaventura is flanked by DFS' Marian Aldan-Pierce, left, and TOC chair Ben Babauta.

TOC chair Ben Babauta thanks sponsors and players for supporting the annual competition.

Marianas Golf Association members pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the tournament.

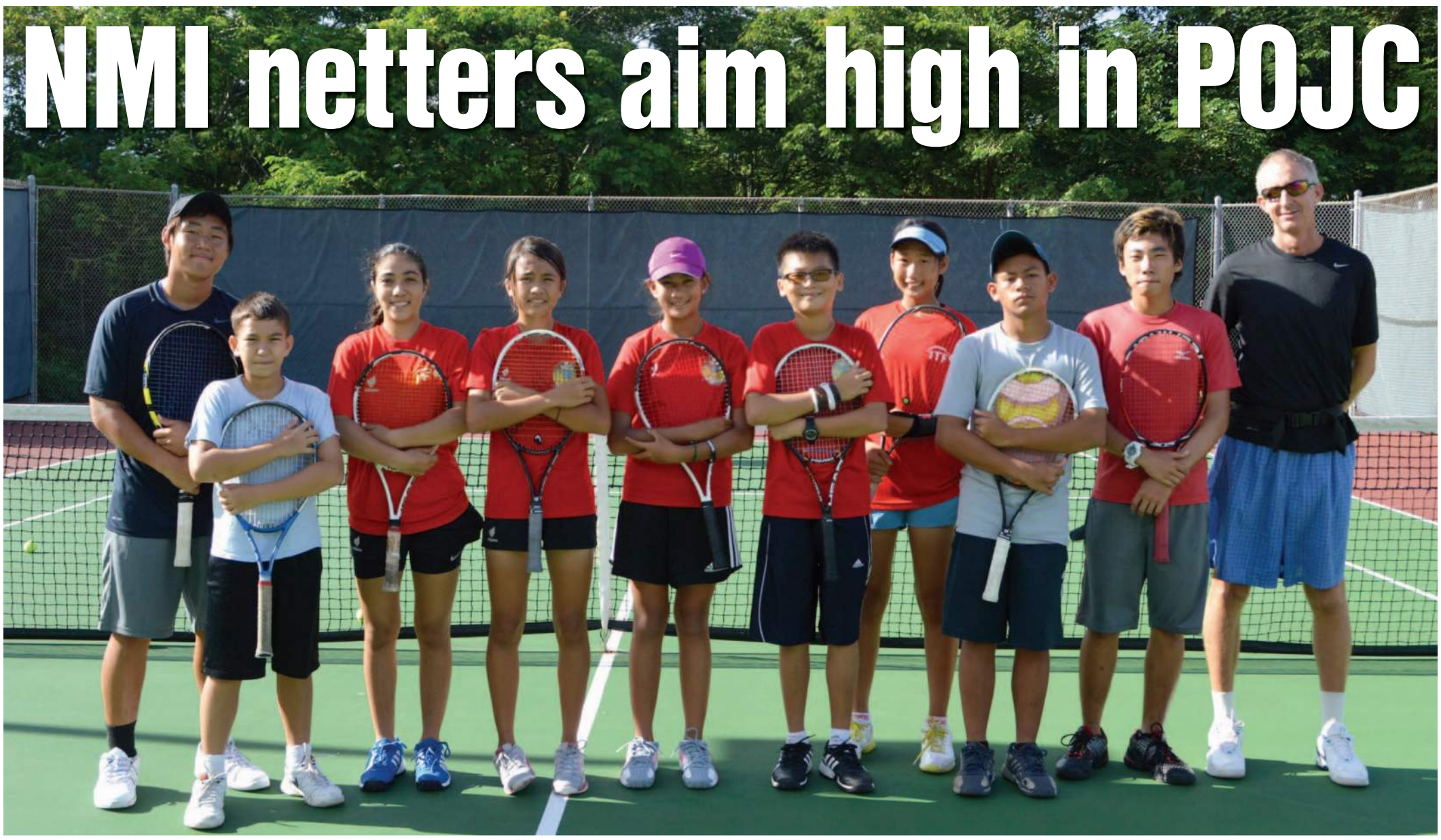
Noriko Togawa gets the third place trophy in the Ladies Low Net category.

Electronic trail helped MLB gain Biogenesis bans
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bucks going young and GM likes it
PAGE 25

NMI netters aim high in POJC



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Tommy Choi, Robbie Schorr, Negahr Rastguiy, Mikayla Lopez, Tania Tan, Michael Ren, Carol Lee, Moris Villanueva, Amami Sakano, and coach Jeff Race pose for a group photo during a short break in their training session at the Pacific Islands Club hard court last Tuesday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team aims to live up to its lofty billing in the 2013 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships that will kick off next week in Fiji.

"I like the idea that we are the team to beat in POJC, as this will challenge our players to do well to keep our No. 1 position in the region," said CNMI coach Jeff Race.

Though the POJC is a battle among the North, East, and West squads in the region, participating countries still fight for bragging rights for the best finish in the 18-nation field (excluding Australia, New Zealand, and New Caledonia) and for the past two years, the CNMI was ahead of its foes.

Last year, the Commonwealth

See NMI on Page 26

Armatech slips past Blazers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech foiled the Blazers' entry into the win column, pulling off a pulsating 74-73 victory in the lone game in the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League 2013/ Docomo Pacific Cup last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Armatech's Elmer Esdrelon is challenged by the Blazers' Won Joo Jung, left, and Nate Chargualaf, second right, and is forced to dish the ball to Ken McCain, right, during the fourth quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The hard-fighting Blazers seemed headed for their first win of the season when they led by 3 points, 73-70, with 1:03 left in the game, but Armatech fought back and drew one basket each from Marlon De Dios and Brendon Talania to grab the victory in the end.

The 3-point lead was the Blazers' biggest, as they kept knocking on Armatech's door after falling behind by 9 in the first quarter, 16-25. The Blazers were finally rewarded for their persistence when Don Brennan made a triple and put his team on top for the first time, 71-70, with 1:47 left on the clock.

Armatech then faltered on its offensive set and fumbled while trying to recover a loose ball, paving the way for a Brennan fastbreak layup that increased the Blazers' lead to 3. Armatech nearly lost the ball anew on its next possession,

See ARMATECH on Page 26

Favorites deliver early at Shirley's Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Favored players got off to a good start in the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic that opened last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Community Badminton Club's Andreau Galvez, who won last year's singles and doubles crowns (with Hapi Gabriel) teamed up with 2012 B champion Jexler Caranto and slipped past fellow CBC players Ezekiel Macario and Jordan Pangelinan in the men's doubles A. Galvez and Caranto dropped the first game, 19-21, but saved the win in Day 1 of the competition after sweeping the last two, 21-19, 21-12.

Five other pairs are entered in the men's doubles A division, including Saipan Badminon Club's Glenn Bluutjens and Sam Jones, who made

See FAVORITES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Loida Ito returns to Michelle Santos and Cheng Saturno during her and Elna Curate's doubles game in the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.